



an Octopus slouches toward Menal page 32

STEAMSHOVEL PRESS

NUMBER SEVEN 1993

CONSPIRACY WRITERS INTERVIEWED

Jonathan Vankin

Conspiracies, Cover Ups and Crimes

Robert Anton Wilson

Reality Is What You Can Get Away With

John Judge

Committee for an Open Archives

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A Party At Tim Leary's!

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Arlene Hoffman,
and Jerry Rubin, page 38*

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by Kenn Thomas and Philip Gounis

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Dedicated to Ren Hoek, chihuahua of the oversoul

STEAMSHOVEL PRESS NUMBER SEVEN 1993

CO-EDITORS: KENN THOMAS AND PHILIP GOUNIS



Jonathan Vankin, **author of *Conspiracies, Cover-Ups and Crimes***

Q: Why are people interested in conspiracy theories and secondly if such conspiracy theories are valid, why bother to get up in the morning?

A: To take the second question first: I have heard that too, that the bad thing about conspiracy theories is that they'll create a feeling of helplessness and, as you say, if everything's a big conspiracy, why even bother? There's nothing we can do. We might as well just drop out. I disagree with that but I understand why people say it.

I really thought that people I interviewed in my book are taking the exact opposite approach. They are activists in really sort of the deepest sense. They're constantly reading, thinking, some of them trying to do something about what they see as the problems that we face here, the Conspiracy, whatever you want to call it. And they feel that by educating themselves and others that's really the best weapon. So I think they are, in fact, trying to overcome the feeling of helplessness and trying to understand it. What I was trying to do in the book was understand it and I think, to go to the first question you asked, I think that feeling of helplessness that we all experience on a daily basis, I think a lot of Americans feel that they really can't influence their government. I think that's one of the reasons that conspiracy theories are so attractive, it's really hard to understand what goes on, especially when so much of what goes on in this supposedly open, democratic society, goes on in secret and it often seems that are being manipulated by strange forces behind the scenes, or whatever. We're subjected on a constant basis to propaganda message through not only the news media but advertising and entertainment. And we're sort of instilled with all sorts of conflicting wants and desires and emotions and it's hard to understand what's happening to us in this country and in the world right now. We're overloaded with information and events move real fast.

So I think conspiracy theories are an explanation of reality which I see in my book as, although not always an accurate one, often as accurate and as valid as the so-called official stories.

Q: How did you get interested in the topic and can you say a little about whether you started out as a believer and became more of one or vice versa?

A: I didn't start out as a believer. If anything, I didn't start out as a total skeptic of conspiracy theories, either. I started out as sort of an observer and an explorer of what I considered to be dangerous or heretical ideas. I've always been interested in why certain ideas are treated as heresy. Why is it that if you are a "conspiracy theorist" you are also by definition paranoid? You have some sort of a mental illness. That seemed to me like in Stalin's Soviet Union, if you disagreed with the revealed truth of the state you were committed to a mental hospital because, of course, you had to be crazy. I saw an analogy there but then I also saw that with some of these theories there's at least a degree of validity. I wasn't all that familiar with things like the Kennedy assassination theory before I went into the book but I didn't see how they were the nonsense that some of the Warren Commission defenders and some of the official sources make them out to be. It just seemed to me to be unfair.

One of the reasons that conspiracy theories are so attractive; it's really hard to understand what goes on, especially when so much of what goes on in this supposedly open, democratic society, goes on in secret and it often seems that are being manipulated by strange forces behind the scenes.

So I went in trying to explore why that is, why these things are treated as stigmatized. Why they're not even considered valid. You're not even supposed to listen when someone comes up with a conspiracy theory, much less take it seriously.

A: Kerry Thornley is one of the first interviews in your book. To get back to this idea of individuals feeling resigned to their destiny. Thornley seemed to us to take an almost light-hearted approach to take an almost light-hearted approach to this idea of being manipulated by an electrode. Did you get that same kind of feeling from Thornley, that he kind of resigned himself to the fate of being manipulated?

Q: I'm still a little puzzled about Kerry Thornley and I talk about that in the book, too. I also talked about that in an article that came out in July in a paper in New York City, the *New York Press*, where they did a story on Kerry Thornley and the writer there interviewed me. And I said that he seemed like he was serious to me but I also wasn't sure whether or not he might have been pulling my leg about all this stuff. Since he has this history of sort of a Merry Prankster on a philosophical scale, going back to the Principia Discordia and all that sort of thing. He really enjoys intellectual jokes, satire on sort of a grand scale and I really wondered, and still wonder to some extent, whether his whole conspiracy theory is sort of a joke he's playing on himself as well as the rest of the world.

I said that in that article and I got a long letter from him and he was ruminating on that and seemed to be saying that, on the one hand he did take these things seriously, but on the other hand we can't really take anything seriously because of the nature of reality itself is so tenuous. How do we really know anything that we know? And you can sort of go on about that forever.

Q: Is that a principle that you can generalize about other people involved with conspiracy theory thinking, that maybe it's part of a lampoon or just a cock-eyed way of looking at the world?

A: I think that Kerry is probably the most self-aware. I started the book with him because he is on the surface the most crazy. He thinks that there's a bug implanted on his body and has been since birth. But at the same time, he's the most self-aware of all the people I talked to. There's other people in the book, one in particular I can think of, who take themselves extremely seriously.

Q: Who's that?

A: Dave Emory. I don't really want to say too much about it other than what I said in the book. He's a very dogmatic person and he really believes every word he says. To him, this stuff is just plain truth, even the stuff about the space shuttles possibly causing earthquakes and the whole bit. He takes it all with the utmost seriousness and, in fact, he's so serious about it that if you challenge anything that he says, especially anything about his self-image, which apparently I unwittingly did in the book, he really goes ballistic. He's done that on me since the book came out, the one person who responded that way.

Q: Did you find that attitude with the so-called "disciples" of Mae Brussel?

A: Actually, no. Which is why I was kind of shocked by Emory's reaction to thing. Some of the other people who admire Mae Brussel admire her for the same reasons that I admire her for, which is that she was a real intellectual pioneer. Not in the sense of that she was necessarily coming up with some new truth but that she was exploring unexplored areas. In my introduction to the book I say

I consider the whole book to be a voyage, sort of like Darwin on the Beagle when he went out and stopped in lands that hadn't been widely explored before and took samples and came back with these samples with a new view of the whole world. That's what I was trying to do in the book and I think that was sort of what Mae Brussel was trying to do too. As wacky as she could be, she wasn't a proselytizer. She didn't tell people that if they didn't believe this stuff they must be agents themselves or they're part of the conspiracy. She really was a very deep thinker in her way.

Q: She opened so many different cans of worms. When you put together your book, how did you decide what to discuss and what to leave out?

A: A lot of it had to do with whether I could find, not necessarily verification but at least corroboration. If I could track down some of the information that these people were presenting to me as fact. For instance, if they said Jonestown was a CIA mind control experiment, well I wanted to go back and see what facts they based this on. And they would cite them to me. They would say that the Guyanese coroner found that most of the victims were not suicides but murders. So I would go back and find a *New York Times* saying that very thing and I would cite that in my notes. That's just one out of hundreds of examples in the book. They would say it's known that there was a CIA agent present at Jonestown. Turns out that there's news reports of that at the time as well. So I just wanted to go back to the public record and see what could be found.

Q: Were you in touch with the people that you discussed in your chapter on Votescam during the election? How did they take it all and how did the News Election Service work in this last election?

A: Well, it worked the same way it always works. Interestingly, on the night before the election I was on a show in New York on WBAI in which Jim Collier, the co-father of the Votescam theory, was also on and he's pretty much sticking to his theory. I haven't talked to him since the election but at that time he was definitely sticking to it plus he added on the fact that, and this is a fact, that not only are election returns centralized now exiting polling is also centralized. There's one company that handles all the exit polling. So when the networks announce the exit poll results early in the evening, which they were relatively conscientious about holding back on this year, those are all coming from the same source.

Q: Were either of the Collier brothers suggesting that this centralized process had been bought out this time?

A: I think they suggest that's it's been bought out from day one. That's why they are conspiracy theorists as opposed to simply political researchers or scholars.

Q: So if Clinton won then he didn't win by a general electoral landslide or a popular vote landslide, he won because whoever controls these centralized processes of vote tallying wanted him to win. Or were they saying that Bush was going to win and they were wrong?

A: I didn't hear Jim Collier make a prediction, actually, but if they're going to stick by their theory it's kind of inevitable that they'd have to suggest that. And they're not the only ones that have that kind of theory. Mae Brussels always said that the President is picked twenty years in advance and presumably Bill Clinton would have been picked twenty years in advance. If you want to spin the whole scenario out, Bush certainly wasn't a very good President, I don't think, and so if you're the mastermind of this conspiracy you're going to want him out of there.

Talking about Clinton and conspiracy theories, to jump into another chapter in the book, about the Trilateral Commission, are you familiar with the book *Tragedy and Hope*?

Presumably Bill Clinton would have been picked twenty years in advance.

Carroll Quigley is a cornerstone of the Birch Society theory. Now in Bill Clinton's acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, his acceptance of the nomination, he singled out Carol Quigley as one of the people who was one of the major influences in his life!

Q: It rings bells.

A: To briefly explain it, the John Birch Society has this theory about the Trilateral Commission and these international...Council on Foreign Relations and all this stuff. And one of the books they often cite is by a Georgetown University professor named Carroll Quigley, who I believe is now deceased, called *Tragedy and Hope*, which is about an eleven hundred page manifesto exposing in a favorable way this alleged conspiracy. And the Birchers cite this as evidence that this conspiracy is very real and that here's a guy who likes the conspiracy, thinks they're doing all these great things, the Rockefellers and the Morgans of the world are doing all these fantastic things, and just wanted to write about it. So anyway, the book *Tragedy and Hope* by Carroll Quigley is a cornerstone of the Birch Society theory. Now in Bill Clinton's acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, his acceptance of the nomination, he singled out Carroll Quigley as one of the people who was one of the major influences in his life!

Q: Is that right!

A: Yeah, so here you have Bill Clinton who's sort of this "made" Trilateral man, a guy who is coming from outside the northeastern so-called liberal establishment, being brought into it, being trained by people like Quigley at places like Georgetown University and publicly acknowledges Carol Quigley as one of the biggest influences on his life. As opposed to Bush, who is sort of a "born" Trilateral man, born into the family and pre-ordained that he would be part of the eastern establishment.

Q: Does Carroll Quigley claim any affection for the Birch Society?

A: Not for the Birch Society, no. He claims affection for the insiders who are running the alleged conspiracy. The Birchers believe that there's this conspiracy of insiders, the Rockefellers, the Rothschilds, the Morgans, who have pretty much have been running things through organizations like the Trilateral Commission, the CFR, for a very long time. Now in *Tragedy and Hope*, Quigley, who is a professor of politics, agrees with them, says there is such a conspiracy, but the thesis of his book is to say that these people have done wonderful, wonderful things. It's a benevolent conspiracy. "Yes, they operate in secret but I, Carroll Quigley, think they are so wonderful, I want to tell the public about them." And that's what *Tragedy and Hope* is about. So Quigley is a Trilateralist, or was, he might have died even before the Commission was even founded, I don't know. Probably not, but he's been dead for a while. In any case, he was Trilateralist himself and Clinton cites him as this tremendous influence.

Q: Now that the paperback version of *Conspiracies, Cover Ups and Crimes* (Dell, \$4.95) is out, what are your current projects?

A: I have a couple of other ideas for conspiracy oriented books but I haven't been able to sell them yet. I'm working on a novel.

Q: Is your novel conspiracy related?

A: Overtones, yeah, but it's not an out-and-out thriller. There's a lot of materials in here, though. I've certainly been tempted to spin some of them off but just haven't put my mind to it yet.

Robert Anton Wilson,

author of *Reality Is What You Can Get Away With*

Q: Is the new book going to be published by New Falcon?

A: No, the new book is published by Dell Books, who've handled most of my fiction for the last ten years or so.

Q: So this new work is fiction.

A: Yes.

Q: And it's called?

A: *Reality Is What You Can Get Away With*.

Q: Is this the latest volume in the current Historical Illuminatus series?

A: No, this is outside that series. The Historical Illuminatus series is being published by Penguin Books. I've got four publishers. It's complicated, but that's the way it works out sometimes. *Reality Is What You Can Get Away With* is a novel in the form of a screenplay which has got as much structure as a Monty Python routine, at least.

Q: I'm always taken aback at how prolific you are. I think I just received a copy of *Cosmic Trigger II*, and for some reason I always think of you in terms of Thomas Pynchon, who writes kind of similar things, but he does one every twenty years, and doesn't talk to anybody.

A: Yeah, somehow he makes a living from it. I don't know how. I've got to keep writing as fast as I can, or I'll go broke.

Q: And what are your audiences like these days? Are you getting any kind of feedback Post-Reagan that you weren't getting, say, in the late Seventies?

A: I still get largely young audiences. Well, there's always a scattering of people of all ages, right up to my own age, which is sixty. But still, I attract mostly people around twenty, some under twenty.

Q: How do you see your early work, in terms of the present day? Has a lot of what you predicted come true? Do you expect the same kind of things in the future?

A: The major thing I predicted was that there wouldn't be a nuclear war, and that humanity would survive. I feel vindicated by recent events on that issue, anyway. I write non-fiction, as well as fiction, and it's curious that in my fiction, some of the weird things in my fiction have turned out to be true, and I wasn't even trying to be a prophet. In *Schrodinger's Cat*, a science fiction trilogy I did in 1979, I have America being overrun by armies of homeless people, and that was supposed to be crazy satire of the worst that could happen. And now it's really happened. Sometimes I feel a little bit guilty, like I caused it.

Q: Did you see *JFK*, the Oliver Stone movie?

A: I not only saw *JFK*, I saw the first show on the first day it opened here where I live, in Santa Cruz. I was very curious, I couldn't wait, and I had to get out and see it right away, before I could read

I'm not going to deny being a CIA agent. Hell, the more you deny it, the more people think that there must be some truth in it.

any reviews, so I could make sure I was making up my own mind. And I think it's the greatest movie since *Citizen Kane*, fifty years ago. It's innovative in its film techniques like *Citizen Kane*, and politically it's hot as burning coals, just like *Citizen Kane*, and I liked it a great deal. I can see, dramatically, why Stone picked Garrison. The more responsible conspiracy researchers don't make interesting stories, they sit and do research, and write books. That's not cinematic. Garrison took a man into court and had a trial. That's cinematic. So naturally, Garrison was the cinematic hero.

Q: So you don't have a very high regard for Garrison's research?

A: No, not at all.

Q: And why, specifically, was that? He wasn't even near where he should have been with the evidence, or the way that he pursued it? Is that your feeling?

A: My feeling was that a lot of his evidence was very slapdash, and he didn't impress me very much. His evidence didn't impress me.

Q: Still, what do you think about Stone's basic premise - that JFK was killed because he was going to get us out of Vietnam?

A: Well, it's possible, but I don't believe it.

Q: Why do you think it did happen, then?

A: There are a dozen alternative theories that are just as plausible. I think the Mafia had a lot of reasons for wanting to get rid of Kennedy, especially their concept of honor. He took a lot of help from them to win Illinois, and then he double-crossed them and started throwing them in jail. That's the kind of thing they regard as dishonorable and worthy of punishment. And there's a lot of evidence pointing in that general direction, of the Mafia, but then again there's evidence pointing in the direction of the CIA, but I'm not at all sure you can distinguish the Mafia and the CIA any more. The two are so intertwined that it's like one entity rather than two.

Q: Some people have suggested that the CIA introduced LSD into the culture to de-politicize young people, the militants and the social activists became the image of the "hippy-dippy" stoned-out people just laying out in the grass.

A: Well, we survived. I'm not going to deny being a CIA agent. Hell, the more you deny it, the more people think that there must be some truth in it, like the story about LBJ spreading the rumor that, when he was running for congress, that his opponent was a swinophilic. You can say that if you say it in Latin. That's somebody who has an inordinate sexual attraction to pigs, hogs, and other distinguished varieties of swine. And someone asked LBJ, "What do you expect to accomplish by all this?" And LBJ says, "At least I'll make him deny it!" I'm not going to deny every idiot charge that's laid against me, because that makes it sound like they were taken seriously, and there might be some truth in them.

Q: Let's talk a bit about the old motto: Space Migration, Life Extension, and the Intensification of Intelligence. Are these still three things that concern you, and how do you feel they've been developing?

A: Well, yeah, I'm still very interested in all three of them, and I'm glad more and more people have spent more and more time in space colonies, and more and more people are drinking smart drinks

than booze, and that life extension research is moving along very rapidly. I think a lot of other things have to happen first before we're ready for space migration. I'm more interested in Bucky Fuller's plan to integrate all of the electrical grids in the world into one grid, which will make electricity cheaper for everybody, and show the governments and corporations of the world that they've got more to gain by cooperating than they have by conspiring against one another.

Q: How do you turn that consciousness around, as far as corporate America goes, do you think?

A: Well, I agree with Fuller: when you show them something that works, and they see how they can make a profit out of it, you turn them around.

Q: Well, let's talk a little bit about what's going on in space. Are you disappointed, say, in the breakup of the Soviet Union, and of the consequence that it had on their space program, and our own program sort of limping along the way it does?

A: No, I think the breakup of the Soviet Union was absolutely wonderful. It put the CIA and that whole segment of our government in a hell of a jam. How can you have an arms race when you're only racing against yourself? They've got to find some substitute for the arms race now, and they're desperately looking for something that won't involve improving the living conditions of most of us, because if we are allowed to develop the way technology could allow us to develop, then we'd all be billionaires, and they wouldn't feel superior to us anymore. It's the sentient primate drive to get higher on the tree than anybody else that governs all ruling classes. I also think the Soviet change began in 1989, with the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and it's just when Bucky Fuller predicted it would happen in his book *Critical Path*, published in 1981.

Q: So, you don't feel then that the space programs of the world are stunted, or not what they should be?

A: No, once the dunderheads in Washington begin to realize that there is no more Cold War, once they really understand it fully, I think that if we keep the economy going, they'll have to invest in space, which is the place where you can get the biggest return on new investment now, and there's more out there than there is on the surface of the planet, because there's more out there!

Q: Ireland recently went through a controversy involving a very young girl not being allowed to leave the country to have an abortion. Could I get your impressions of Ireland, and what kind of a culture allows this to happen?

A: In the first place, that was obviously a put-up job. I don't deny that the girl was pregnant, but women leave Ireland every day and have abortions in England. It's a well known fact. Every side in the abortion debate in Ireland admits it. The estimates of how many go to England every year vary from three thousand to six thousand. Four thousand seems to be the most popular figure. Nobody knows. There's no way they can control it. Ireland may be Catholic, but it's got a lot of common sense, and it's not totalitarian. So the idea of giving women pregnancy tests before they get on a ferry to Liverpool just won't float. Nobody knows how many women going to England are pregnant when they leave and not pregnant when they get back. Somebody for some reason decided that this girl should become a test case, and announced that was why they were going to England. So the government tried to stop it and the Supreme Court realized that this would make everyone look totally idiotic to the rest of Europe. There's also the economic factor there. If the case goes to the European Supreme Court,

Show the governments and corporations of the world that they've got more to gain by cooperating than they have by conspiring against one another.

Once the dunderheads in Washington begin to realize there is no more Cold War, once they really understand it fully, they'll have to invest in space.

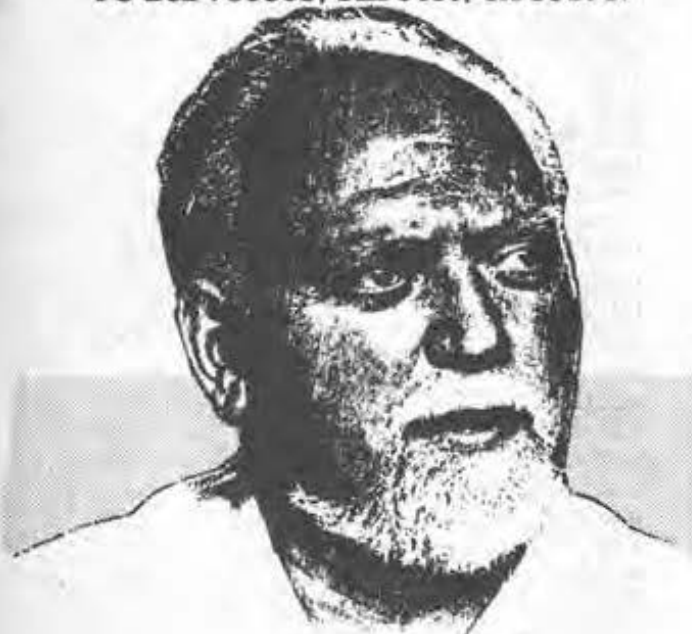
Q: Did you favor any particular candidate in this race this year?

A: Wile E. Coyote.

Q: Wile E. Coyote! Beep-beep! Are there any last thoughts? Anything you want to communicate?

A: Yeah, a phrase from William Butler Yeats, a great Irish poet: "A statesman is an easy man, he tells his lies by rote. A journalist invents his lies, and rams them down your throat. So stay at home and drink your beer and let the neighbors vote".

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John Judge

Co-founder of the Committee For An Open Archives

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the Committee for an Open Archives?

A: The Committee was formed by myself and researcher William Kelly, back in November of last year, before the JFK movie was out, and we really didn't expect -- we were kind of working behind the scenes, just trying to use what influence we could, in Congress, to kick open the House Select Committee on Assassinations records about John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. And after the movie, certainly, there was this tremendous groundswell of both media interest and response from across the country, wanting to get the files open. The movie makes mention of both the House Select Committee files, which were locked up for fifty years, until 2029, and the Warren Commission record, which was locked up for seventy-five years, by Lyndon Johnson, and so that stretches out until 2038. Since then, a number of other researchers in the field have joined with us, and are on our advisory board, including Fletcher Prouty, Robert Groden, Peter Dale Scott, and Gaeton Fonzi, who was also on the House Select Committee staff; and we've sent invitations to a number of others who have come on. Bill Davis from the Christie Institute, out on the West Coast, is on our advisory board now. So it's an expanding number of people, those researchers that are doing the real work, and are willing to work together, have come along with us to try to make a national concerted effort to get the files loose. They've also been, in the course of that, redefining what we should ask for. Carl Oglesby, for instance, whom we spoke to, mentioned that there are remaining ballistic and acoustic and other medical tests that could be done, fruitfully, on the hard evidence in the case if it was to be released. It's under a slightly different situation than some of the other government documents, because it belongs to the National Archives only as a deed of gift from the Kennedy family, and Burke Marshall [Kennedy family attorney] has been in charge of who can see it, according to the terms of the gift, and I guess his opinion, since that time; so when Cyril Wecht got into the Archives in 1967-- one of the few honest doctors to see the record -- he noted that the brain, and X-ray and slide photographs of the chest cavity existed in the record, but when he asked for them, he was told by the archivist that they weren't there -- that they were missing. The archivist takes the official position that they never had any of this material, even though it's inventoried as being accepted in.

So there's that level, and then there are also additional investigative records, like in the Church Committee, which dealt with political assassinations; and the records of the FBI, especially Division Five, Domestic Operations Division; Office of Naval Intelligence records that would have concerned Oswald, and perhaps other key figures in the case; Defense Industrial Security Command records -- another agency named in much of the good research that I've seen, as being involved, and a name that crops up later in other contexts; and of course, CIA and FBI in general. Those files, as well as all Senate and Congressional Investigative files, but the intelligence files as well, need to be released; and then, Peter Dale Scott has pointed out that

...the strings that were being pulled were beyond the capabilities of any CIA schlepper, any anti-Castro Cuban, any Mob goon, in New Orleans or Miami or elsewhere...

there's not only what the House Select Committee had on hand, or the Warren Commission had on hand, but there were also files that they were allowed to see at the intelligence agencies that were then taken back from them. There's also a gag rule on all the House Select Committee on Assassinations employees. When they worked for the House Select Committee, they had to sign a lifelong secrecy agreement, due to the efforts of Mr. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel to the HSCA and Louis Stokes [D-Ohio], the Chair of the Committee; and we would like to see that gag rule lifted as well, so that beyond seeing the documents, we could talk to some of these researchers about what they felt they found out from what they saw. We do have lists of what was put in, at the time these rules for secrecy were applied, and we can compare that to what would come out. We have no doubt that other things may in fact be missing or destroyed, or partially revealed, but we are pushing for the strongest possible bill to make materials immediately public, fully public, without further review and without limitation as to which documents would be seen or who could see them. Over the years, for instance, they've tried to specify that only certain historical scholars, or qualified doctors that they would name, would be able to go in and look at these materials or photographs, and we think that it really should be a full, public opening. There's so much, since 1948, when the national security state came into existence, that's been buried.

Q: They've introduced the language again that only those files that don't endanger national security, or name specific agents, for instance, will be released.

A: Exactly, and the national security excuse was the door that they drove the truck through in the first place. So leaving that in -- and that appears in another bill, also, "vital national security interests" -- that was brought by Congressman James Traficant, from Ohio, [Dem.] that talks about releasing all the records, and making them public, unless vital national security is involved. Who is going to determine that, and how they are going to determine it, is laid out in the Stokes and Boren bill in probably the worst possible way. It will be a period of three years, possibly, and maybe even longer, but certainly up to three years, before a full review is done.

Now we've waited almost thirty years for some of these documents, and they want three years more. Their bill doesn't even touch the King assassination materials; it only talks about Kennedy. It talks about a broad range of agencies, but then they would appoint an executive director and a review committee. And these people would have to, currently, not be government employees, although there's nothing saying they couldn't have been government employees in the past, and they have to also not have been part of any investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy in the past. That's interesting, because it wouldn't leave out those that killed him, just exclude those that investigated it, although, in some cases, they were one and the same, I believe -- the cover-up and the assassination people were the same.

But this group would then be chosen -- and it's language that's reminiscent of the Warren Commission -- people that the public would trust, and this is to restore public interest. I mean, the assumption is, there's nothing there, there was nothing to hide, they locked all this up for absolutely no reason, but if we, the public, insist on seeing it, well, let's do that, and then we'll show them that there was nothing there and that they've been suspicious for no reason, and we've got a great government, and the government can afford to be open to the public. But, in this document, they list about seven different reasons, including the ones you mentioned, for not releasing [materials]; another one that's quite interesting is if it would substantially invade

the privacy of an individual. Now, privacy isn't a concern in a homicide investigation. And that's what this is, an unsolved murder, and the statute of limitations hasn't ended. But this goes so far as to say that the name of the person whose privacy is being invaded doesn't even have to be mentioned in the document that's being suppressed. Somehow, I guess, if you could figure out who they were talking about, they won't release the document on this ground. All these decisions are made, first, by the executive director, and he's allowed to not only hire staff from outside, but to get detailed members of other executive branch agencies to come in: in other words, he could detail a whole group of CIA and defense intelligence agents to do this sorting. And that would fit under the bill's definition. Even though he is not currently working with the government, all the other hands-on people could be, and could be in fact in the intelligence network. Once those files are initially reviewed, this executive director would put some aside, and say these are to be postponed, or for review to see whether they should be postponed, and then the review committee can, for a definite but not determined period of time, postpone their release, even beyond the end of the three-year period. And there doesn't seem to be a limit on how long that would be; they would just have to name a year. They can also, under this bill, release parts of a document, or summarize a document, rather than release it, or substitute a document. This language is right in the bill. For the original document, that would not compromise these so-called security matters. So we have to, at public expense

Q: I'm sorry, John -- substitute a document? You mean they can create a whole new document?

A: Yes, that's the language. It says that they can either issue part of a document, or substitute a document, or -- here's some of the language; it says, "With respect to each assassination material, or particular information assassination material, the disclosure of which is postponed, or for which only substitutions or summaries have been released to the public pursuant to these subsections," -- the bill would allow for that -- "the review board will append the material with all records..." And so it talks openly about the fact that they can give you another document and say, this is the one you can see for now. I mean, this is 1984 in print, this bill. And it's legalizing a whole process of needless review that, once again, obviously, is going to vacuum-clean this, scrub it one more time, just in case there's something in there that somebody might draw from.

Q: I think that's an old criticism. I would think that a lot of people at this point are thinking: Wouldn't the most incriminating files have been destroyed a long time ago, and it's just blowing a lot of smoke trying to get these files?

A: Well, I think that things have been destroyed. As I mentioned, I think we can track major sections of the files that, if they're no longer there, we can at least expose that fact. There are specific documents we know about, and that the research community knows about -- especially concerning Oswald, the CIA and U2, and military intelligence connections, the Oswald-in Mexico sequence and background on Ruby and other key figures in the case, that have never been revealed, and really should be at this point. Some of the Warren Commission stuff has come out over the years, under the Freedom of Information Act, but of course that's been doctored under the provisions of that bill as well, in many cases. But it is the case that each thing that's been released has told us a little more, if not about the crime itself, at least about the cover-up, and about how the Warren Commission lied, and how duplicitous and conscious the cover-up was. So I would stand first just on the principle that these materials belong to us, even if there's no smoking gun. I would in fact be suspicious if we found a smoking gun. I would think that it was probably planted, and my guess at this point is, it would have Castro's fingerprints on it.

Now we've waited almost thirty years for some of these documents, and they want three years more.

Q: John, who is served when Lane writes a book like *Plausible Denial*, where he takes somebody like E. Howard Hunt to trial?

A: Well, if you want to focus the case on Mongoose -- you have to understand, Lane, for many years, refused to say who killed Kennedy. He said he'd be as irresponsible as the Warren Commission. He gave the same lecture verbatim for over a decade, without any new information or facts. More recently, he's taken this position of fingering Hunt. And Hunt clearly can't explain where he was in Dallas. But it goes only so far as the CIA and Mongoose, and the anti-Castro Cubans, and quite possibly the idea of a "rogue element" in the CIA, that was working outside of known channels. But the solution to the case doesn't rest there. The anti-Castro Cubans and the CIA were used. The Mob was used. Dallas oil men were used. A number of people that had reasons to hate John F. Kennedy, or be afraid of him, were put in the position, I believe, of even being allowed to think that they alone had carried out the assassination.

But the strings that were being pulled were beyond the capabilities of any CIA schlepper, any anti-Castro Cuban, any Mob goon, in New Orleans or Miami or elsewhere. This was a military coup d'etat on November 22, 1963. The government was taken over. The defense of the United States was compromised. The Strategic Air Command bomber pilots in the air that hour had no codebooks in their lockers to respond to national emergency or nuclear alert. The plane bringing the Cabinet back from a meeting in Hawaii on Vietnam, similarly, was missing a codebook. The entire government phone grid in D.C., for all the Federal offices except the Pentagon and the White House, went dead. The Joint Chiefs of Staff were the only ones that could have coordinated those events. There was an entire division flying over the country, in Kansas, on its way back from Germany, that was on alert. The 112th Military Intelligence Group, out of Texas, which normally would have backed up the Secret Service in providing security on the Dallas parade route, was called down. These aren't things that a mobster or even E. Howard Hunt could pull off, much less to then create the Warren Commission and the top levels of people that were involved in that cover-up. Oswald was from military intelligence, from DIA [Defense Intelligence Agency]: these are initials that aren't usually heard. Army Intelligence, Navy Intelligence, all the branch intelligences, the DISC, the NRO, the National Reconnaissance Organization; the NSA, the National Security Agency.

Defense Industrial Security Command, DISC, is the largest police force in the United States, and has absolutely no civilian oversight, much less knowledge about it. It was DISC guards at Kerr-McGee that surrounded Karen Silkwood's house, and were responsible for poisoning her with radiation, and eventually for killing her -- not because she was exposing plant safety violations, but because she had unearthed the fact that DISC guards were smuggling bomb-grade plutonium out of the plant. It was going through the Mossad and then on to South Africa. These people guard all the atomic energy installations, all the government's large military contracting sites, the Voice of America, the American information agency, and all the different key sites of the military-industrial complex, as well as Red Stone Arsenal, from the fifties. They were originally started as a police force to guard the secrets of the Manhattan Project, down in the Tennessee Valley, under David Lillenthal. And they've moved from that position forward. And there's nobody looking at these people, and these agencies don't come up.

You can get a charter of the CIA and see what you think about it. Its budget is ten times less than the DIA. CIA and FBI combined don't come to that budget. DIA employs thousands more agents than the CIA does. They're the largest and most effective domestic and international spy agency. They tap all phones, they monitor all electronic communications; they look at everything through satellites the world around. They can see a golf ball from the sky, you know. And they're the ones that really are in charge of Office of Naval Intelligence, it's the oldest intelligence agency in the United States. It dates back almost to the inception of the United States, and yet I can only find five books in print about the Office of Naval Intelligence. You can find hundreds of books in print about the CIA and what it did or didn't do. I'm not saying it's not dangerous. But I'm just saying it's not the only thing out there in the panoply of what runs American intelligence. And the military-industrial complex, that Eisenhower warned about, slapped Kennedy in the face and took over this country, November 22, '63, and they've had us in a death grip since that day.

The Committee for an Open Archives can be reached at POB 6008, Washington, DC 20005 or call 202-310-1858.

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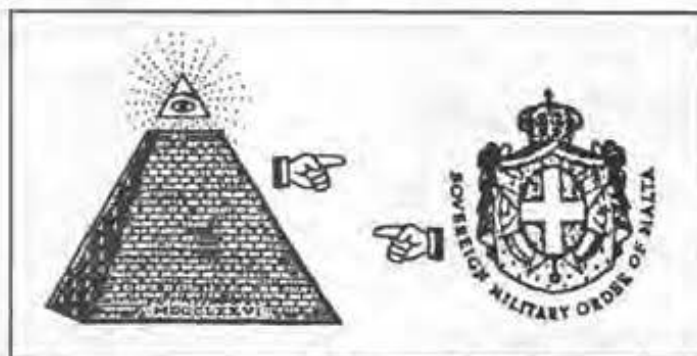
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"The Overt and Covert Organs of the Vatican and British Empires are Locked in Mortal Combat for Control of the World"

Science As Credo

by Roy Lisker

It seems to me that there are too many persons in today's intellectual agar-agar who discovered at some early stage in their career that they could feather their nest egg through merely the interminable cranking of a handful of dependable algorithms in obsessive-compulsive fashion, in much the same way as the Hindu peasant chews his betel - nuts, the cracker-barrel philosopher his wad of chaw, or the elderly Jewish housewife in Miami Beach her bag of sunflower seeds - and thereby concluded that any real effort towards a higher spiritual or cultural life was a waste of time.

For a great deal of Science is nothing more than such forms of compulsive cud-chewing. Truly original ideas are few; many famous scientists have built their entire careers on one or two ideas.

In mathematics, (the science with which I have the greatest familiarity), the Paradigms who developed two original and entirely unconnected trains of thought are given special mention in the histories and biographies and histories of the science: Science - Bernhard Riemann, for work in both complex variables and differential geometry; or Gauss for work in number theory, probability, and physics.

Really independent ideas are difficult to come by in any field - and by an "idea" I mean something like 'evolution' or 'the square root of minus one', or 'the atom' - Consider Thomas Hardy, capping a successful career as a novelist with a second career as a poet. Serving us as the exception which proves the rule, his poetry, though much of it be of a high quality, is monotone in its affect of dreary gloom. He is fond, for example, of grieving the miseries of children who aren't even born yet!

Most scientific work, to return to the point, is mechanical, methodical, repetitive and dull. A person may turn out several hundred papers in his lifetime of work without the grace of a single idea worthy of the name. It must be stressed that this in no way negates his competence, dedication or 'credibility'. He can indeed be quite a good scientist.

Yet one retains the impression, buttressed by numerous historic encounters with every sort of bully in scientist's clothing, that a lifetime of this sort will reinforce an impoverishment of soul, stinginess of heart and narrowness of mental vision that is really hardly any different from that of the medieval monk, scribe, soldier or peasant - whom to despise being one of the more thrilling blood sports of half a millennium.

A few months ago, I attended a poetry reading given by Czech poet/neurophysiologist Miroslav Holub, at the Lamont Library of Harvard U. I liked his poetry quite a bit; I am sure he is also a good neuro(e.t.c.), and know him also as a prominent activist in the years between Dubcek and Havel. Commenting on the differences between literary and scientific work, Holub related this conversation between Paul Valery and Albert Einstein:

Valery asked Einstein: "Albert, answer me this: when you get a new idea, do you run to your notebooks to write it down as fast as you can before its forgotten?" To which Einstein replied: "In our profession, Paul, a new idea arises so very rarely, that one is not likely to forget it, even years later."

To support my thesis: that the scientists of the modern world are in no sense the torchbearers of true civilization, but are little different, (in the majority), than the brain-dead scholastics of the Middle Ages, I have identified a Credo of thirteen articles resembling the dogmatic catechisms of various cults and creeds, such as the words of the Mass, the laws of Leviticus, the Nicene Creed, the Benedictine Rule, the Confessions of Faith, the Book of Common Prayer, and the like:

The Scientist's Credo

I. That research be its own justification, whether its purposes be noble, silly or

malevolent.

We see this in particular in research on animal subjects, however there are many examples to be taken from all the sciences. The truism that many discoveries which were useless at the time they were made turned out to be of some use, even a century or two later, has, in our own day, been elevated into the above Principle, which asserts that "All research MUST be valuable because it MAY be useful." Such an argument would, in the older religious credos, be equivalent to an exhortation to monks to commit murders because they might find something which, thirty years later, will give them some good reasons to instruct novices in the evils of murder.

II. That there are hidden laws of Nature which GUARANTEE that the fruits of All research must ULTIMATELY be of benefit to mankind.

This is a stronger version of Article I: however, the emphasis here is on the "hidden laws", which posit a kind of ultimate "Moral Essence", or "Unconditioned Virtue", in research. There has been no attempt, as far as I know, made by anyone to discover these laws or to derive them from raw data. I may myself approach the NSF to underwrite a few decades of Research to validate or invalidate the belief that Ultimate Goodness lies at the bottom of All Research.

III. That the unbelievable amounts of suffering inflicted on living creatures, including human beings, through research in biology, medicine, psychology, and related Sciences, have been as necessary to our Salvation as torturings were necessary to the Salvation of the victims of the Inquisition.

The definition of salvation changes from one era to the next, but the facts of power and sadism undergo little alteration. As long as there exist so many highly qualified professionals in respected fields who enjoy causing suffering to the helpless, it matters little that they toil in this service of some given creed or another one. 10 minutes of rational judgment could cancel at least 50% of all the experiments in which living creatures are subjected to such horrible tortures. (It is my belief that this figure can be raised to 100%, but that constitutes another essay.)

Still, there is no arguing with Salvation.

IV. That there exists a well defined methodology known as the "Scientific Method", and that every intelligent person not only knows what it is, but has exactly the same idea of what it is.

We are here confronted with yet another classical barge before the tugboat dilemma: the standard definition of intelligence is after all: that mental factor which understands and uses the "Scientific Method". The vulgar definition of this method, that which is adhered to by most members of the scientific community, is some dreary mix of Positivism and Empiricism: Positivism claims that Universals can be proven by the accumulation of Particulars, while Empiricism claims that facts, and facts alone, are self-evident.

In point of fact, this author knows quite a large number of intelligent people who don't buy either of these viewpoints: but they also are not among the legions who recite the Credo every morning upon rising.

V. That Science is not responsible for its creations.

We all know that Szilard, Fermi, Ulam, Feynman, Oppenheimer, etc., didn't make the A-bomb: God made the A-bomb. One is reminded of the famous remark of Pope Clement II in the 15th century, when he was asked how he and his friends might, in good faith, throw all the gold plates used during their daily feast through the windows of the Vatican and into the Tiber river, while at the same time most of Europe was starving:

Einstein replied: " In our profession a new idea arises so very rarely, that one is not likely to forget it, even years later."

* God made the Papacy; it's our business to enjoy it."

VI. That Science has absolute control over its creations.

Most of us go to sleep secure in the knowledge that genetic engineers are following all those guidelines (that they, in their superior wisdom also established), and that therefore Godzilla will not spring out of a test-tube; at least not while we're alive.

It might appear to the discerning, that Principles V and VI cannot both be true: yet that is the nature of true Religion, which cannot be imagined without paradox and contradiction! Read, for example Rudolph Otto's "The Idea of the Holy."

VII. That the lifelong gratification of idle curiosity MUST produce all the raptures experienced by the mystics of the Middle Ages.

What indeed, is this much jubilated "Scientific Method", if not the promise of some delectation of infinite and perpetual bliss in the discovery, for example, that (Catalan's Conjecture), the Diophantine Equation, $x^Y - u^V = 1$, has only one non-trivial solution in integers, namely $x = 3$, $y = 2$, $u = 2$, $v = 3$; or that the uncovering of counter-examples, if there are any, would require more computer capacity than that presently available over the entire planet!

Alas, that Plotinus, Meister Eckhart, Heinrich Suso, Thomas a Kempis, St. John of the Cross, and so many others, were not born in our glorious age of scientific faith, so that they might achieve Union with the Ultimate Reality through computing 20 million roots of the Riemann Zeta on the line $s = 1 + iy$, or through bashing in the brains of a thousand monkeys to learn about head injuries, or through counseling the world for more than half a century that it must find some way of copulating with its mothers to achieve psychological health, or through using the inhabitants of Bikini as guinea pigs for the study of radiation sickness, or through elaborating very complex and involuted theories with no experimental basis, no predictive power, and hardly any theoretical purpose, such as string theory in particle physics.

Twenty years of wasted effort in the elaborate gymnastics of string theory must be worth, in the free market, at least a dozen visions of the Virgin Mary in 10th century gold crowns.

VII. That Science is value-free.

Most of these abominations are justified, sooner or later, by arguments to the effect that Science is unable to determine values. There is, in other words, a limit even to the great powers of the Scientific Method. A book of matches is also value free; this hardly gives us the right to use it for the purposes of burning down someone's house.

The "ultimate benefit" argument, and the "value free" argument are frequently employed by the same official personages, usually in the same paragraph.

IX. That Science is the highest value.

The metaprinciple: There is no contradiction in contradictory principles, is invoked with a high frequency in all organized religions; and, as a religion, Science is nothing if not organized, perhaps the most highly organized in the history of organized religion. One can well imagine, for example, that the editor of Ferment, sick unto dying from the gangrene of functional unemployment, would derive quite a lot of satisfaction and a good income, by joining the ranks of Walter Sullivan, James Gleick, Gina Kolata, Isaac Asimov and so on, by writing a science column for some magazine or daily newspaper.

This is indeed true, the trouble being that he is unable to pay homage to the drivel demanded by the Religion of Science, a spiritually emaciated cult worship of such universal acceptance, that "science writing", "science proselytizing", and "science worship", are inseparable in the public consciousness.

The Article of Faith which requires us to believe that "Science", as metaphysic and mass opiate, is the highest and most enduring value, has prevailed over 2 centuries that it has turned almost all of our schools and colleges, and certainly all of our big universities, into either technical schools or research institutes. Things have changed

Twenty years of wasted effort in the elaborate gymnastics of string theory must be worth, in the free market, at least a dozen visions of the Virgin Mary in 10th century gold crowns.

very little since the 12th century Sorbonne, when Theology was lord of all, and all other intellectual endeavors had to go begging. It is only the name of the game which is different.

In today's schools, Philosophy has been reduced to an inane, somewhat fecal, obsession with sententious doubt; Letters apologizes for its very existence: There's no money in an English degree; and the teaching of Languages for any profession outside the diplomatic corps has fallen to such a low level, that even the pampered scientists of our day are in danger of losing their grasp on the scientific treasures of the past 500 years, almost all of which were written in Latin and Greek - indeed, scientists in today's America can't even speak a good French, German or Russian, something unimaginable 70 years ago.

Culture is ridiculed with a sorry yawn; mathematicians, physicists, biologists or even chemists who imagine themselves on the slashing edge of knowledge will make comments about modern art, music or poetry that a poor lonesome cowboy, far from the centers of learning and art would be ashamed to utter.

Such is the power of FAITH.

X. That non-scientific thought is ignorant, superstitious or crazy and merits ridicule and even persecution.

Read Stephen Hawking's "Brief History of Time". His account of the history of Science is factually threadbare -yet quite valuable in presenting the "Standard Model" of European Science: **every advance was halted by obscurantism monks and Popes who burned Giordano Bruno, silenced Galileo, taught the unlettered that the Earth was flat, and so on.**

While not disputing the validity of many of these charges, it is very clear that the things which Hawking, or Star Trek, or Nova, or The Shape Of The World, or Asimov, or Sagan, (Carl, not Francoise), or Hofstadter, or hosts of others really don't like about the Medieval Church, is the presence of a strong and well organized competition.

This myopic view of history also fails to understand that the kind of world Science has created for us, and the kind of spiritual desert it wishes all of us to live in, is driving hundreds of thousands, millions of the "ignorant" into the arms of these simplistic, foolish, backward yet in many ways more spiritually enriching Faiths; such as Creationism, which persons like Sagan and Stephen Jay Gould waste their time in hating and fearing.

As long as there is a well-entrenched, powerful intellectual Establishment trying to teach all of us that the pointless and sterile accumulations of silly facts has more spiritual merit than the compassion of a Mother Teresa or the courage of a Mahatma Gandhi, the legions of the "ignorant", and, presumably, the "damned", are going to swell.

XI. That anything but the latest theory ("the paradigm") is ignorant, superstitious or crazy and should be ridiculed or even persecuted.

(I am indebted for this example to Dr. Andreas Ehrenfeucht, at the University of Colorado). We know that the father of the theory of Drifting Continents, Hans Wegener, was ridiculed and ignored throughout most of his scientific career for his belief in this theory.

Imagine today, however, that there is a geologist who for lots of good reasons, believes that this theory is false.

He would probably be given much the same treatment that Galileo received; less

brutal in its methods perhaps, but with exactly the same results: a black-listing and a silencing.

XII. That social involvement interferes with pure thought.

Why should the priesthood, the social elite who are carried on the backs of the society like the Hindu Brahmins of old in the hoodahs of elephants, worry themselves about the cow-dung that the elephants have to step in? Go to half a dozen science conferences and you will see that the academic scientific world lives in a kind of permanent merry-go-round from lectures to banquets to receptions to luxury hotels to jetliners to grants to awards to citations to publishing contracts to....

They are so much an integral part of the conservative power elite, that the only thing which really distinguishes them is that they are too stupid to realize, as every politician and business executive does, how terrifyingly precarious their situation is, or that it can vanish with the flap of a butterfly's wing in the Amazon (what's left of it.) jungle.

XIII. That Science IS pure thought.

Few words in our vocabulary are quite so impure as the word, "pure". The Burmese Buddhist tradition maintains that any person who is so advanced as to have no more than one sexually unclean thought each month, is already a very high holy man and should be accorded deep veneration.

How much less can we expect of our modern day Western scientist? How often, even in a single day, does he, (most of them being men, but this applies also to women), think of the path of the electron, or the structure of DNA, or the classification of all finite groups, or the hibernation of grizzly bears, without at least one reflection on how much money it can make him, or how many conferences he can travel to with it, or how much flattery his colleagues will give him, or how big his pension is going to be, or how handsome he will look in that photograph in the Encyclopedia Britannica of the year 2024, or how much closer he is to the Nobel Prize, or how much better his theory is than that of the x,y,z-group over in Illinois, or how his children will look up to him, or how bored his wife will be when he explains it to her, or how, even though it has little about it that appears useful in any way, *somebody might just*, in 200 years, *discover a practical application that will earn him posthumous praise as a benefactor of Mankind....*

Of such does the purity of Science consist of. It has about the same rating as the purity of the monks in the medieval monasteries, of which we have read many accounts. We see indeed that the "Credo of Science" is nothing but a long list of delusions on a par with the parting of the Red Sea, the immortal snakes of the Polynesian islands, the bodily ascension of Elijah, The material Ascension of the Virgin, the rebirth of Quetzalcoatl, the immortality of the Pharaohs, and the like. It is therefore hardly surprising that the scientific community, (apart from the many individual exceptions), have contributed nothing to the advance of civilization beyond their barbarian precursors.

Roy Lisker produces *Ferment!*, a newsletter of commentary, poetry and fiction. Subscriptions can be ordered from his most current address: 1340 Ordway, Berkeley, CA 94702.

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Phenomicon In Atlanta

There are more things in the minds of men and conspiracy researchers than are dreamt of in your small philosophy, Bill Cooper.

After a depressing, rather macabre first night at the Phenomicon, a yearly conspiracy politics, cyberpunk, and marginals milieu gathering in Atlanta, where they had thoughtfully popped for my airline ticket and red-carpeted my every disoriented move, Saturday rose in mood and velocity with panel discussions and unscheduled gabfests, to climax in an impromptu party in the hotel bar around nine o'clock. Len Bracken, Situationist-influenced fiction writer, called from the lobby to tell me that he and Bob Black -- well-known marginals writer/badboy -- were hanging with a crowd of semi-clad and fawning professional strippers, camp followers eager to buy books, and publishers hot to sign contracts, and could I drop by and say a few inspirational words to the assemblage? Matt Love, freelance writer and pivotal figure in the Cabot Cabal research cult, and G.J. Krupey, author of any number of fiercely admired pieces in the underground press and regular contributor to *Steamshovel*, waded downstairs from our Fortress of Solitude on the third floor, and when we arrived in the lobby the place was boiling with a crowd that looked more like confidence men, call girls and probable spies. It was left for me to suggest that the bar was the only logical place to take our seemingly-bright-yet-undeniably-tarnished intellectual wares, and we did.

Until the wee hours of the morning the air, veritable aether of that unprepossessing booze parlor was lit with the fireworks of the intersection. The field of conspiracy research was represented by Stephanie Caruana (editor of the original *Skeleton Key to the Gemstone File*, 10 these 18 or so years ago).

Matt Love, Kenn Thomas (*Steamshovel* editor) myself, Monty Greene (who I didn't get a chance to talk with, but I've been impressed by his articles in the fine conspiracy rag *Zeitgeist*), and

Joe Ionno (keyboardist for the Dr. Hook retro rock band, oddly enough, who blindsided me with his synthesis of psychology and politics: conspiracy research as scalpel for the scar in the collective unconscious). Having Stephanie at the shindig, both the convention and the party, was a treat; since the release (escape?) of the Gemstone File Skeleton Key years ago she had pretty well retired from the Public Eye, and I understand her reasoning. But it was good to belly up to the table with her and realize that she was a real person, amiable to a turn, and only given to grabbing the microphone away at panel discussions. Bob Black held forth at length (and breadth) while the Prime Minister of Livestock and Heavy Machinery (who I knew from his underground mag) and his compadre Mark (a blinkin' cryptographer from NASA! I collared him and told him I wanted an interview later...) banged in and began videotaping the proceedings, occasionally sallying forth to check out the cult religion Church of the Subgenius, who were holding a dance or pagan ritual of some sort in the basement. Len Bracken, an author portraying one of the most subtle aesthetics and wide-ranging knowledges of culture and politics around (read his superb anarchist science fiction novel *Free Play*) passed out copies of his new porn book *Stasi Slut* he'd done for a *Playgirl* publishing subsidiary, set among members of the East German secret police, and later attempted a demonstration of demonically

It was left for me to suggest that the bar was the only logical place to take our seemingly-bright-yet-undeniably-tarnished intellectual wares...

possessed table surfing as the group launched into a rollicking retrospective of 60's surfing tunes (substituting improvised LaVey-derived lyrics), then abruptly diverted into a calm, cautiously-reasoned discussion of Wilhelm Reich when two hotel security guards ambled by. It was excellent meeting Adam Parfrey, owner of Feral House; if you're familiar with the astounding output of his publishing house, that will probably give you the best clue to what he's like. Adam and Kenn (a profoundly gentle and kind man) and I fell into competing for who could laugh in the most hysterical and non-stop fashion during most of the evening.

Oh, there were plenty of things about the Phenomicon political conspiracy - cyberpunk -

marginals convention that I liked (meeting Kerry Thornley, Lee Harvey Oswald's buddy, was particularly enjoyable and enlightening), a few things I hated (too many gnawing black leather weasels haunting side corridors, for one thing), but the strictly exclusive (comeback if you can find a chick to bring with you, sonny)catered (certainly Mr. Black, I'll buy you another round) conspiracy authors-publishers-and-alleged-perpetrators party on the second night of the con was the finest thing.

Jim Keith is the editor of *The Gemstone File* from IllumiNet Press and *Secret and Suppressed: Banned Ideas and Hidden History*, from Feral House.

LEN BRACKEN AT PHENOMICON

I'm sending this to everyone at the table...as if the conversation were going on and on...I was lucky to make it out of Atlanta alive. The lights seemed far off in the distance - only the most vague sensation of speed. Something snapped and I threw my Swedish clutch into second and locked up the brakes - swerved to stop with the nose of my car up to the shotgun door of another car, inches apart. Shadow boxing in the Viking - faulty auto-pilot. The occupants of a red Beamer piled out: "That girl's hair is so long she could piss on it anytime she wants." There were two guys and three girls.

"Looks like you've got an extra, well here I am."

I gave you guys classic Bracken in New Viking mode. Realize that I look over my shoulder and laugh at my macho parody. I make no claim to originality in my bad acting, which brings me to the most important lesson, for me, at the con. Matt's comment about the enemy within, the painful self critique. I was begging to be taken to task for lifting lines and Adam was there, shrewd and engaging enough to do it. I'm grateful yet ambivalent. If I'm representing and recontextualizing Bakhtin, I leave hints and rationalize it the way he would: those who know, don't need footnotes; notes would be irrelevant for those who don't know. Think of Kosinsky's *Hermüt*, bogged down in notes - high modern turned post-modern to a fault. I'd love to say to Adam, 'No more pastiche.' Bakhtinian dialogism makes it almost impossible not to lift value-laden terms that denote a given ideology. What I do is put various perspectives of interconnecting zones of speech...I like to bring marginal ideologies to life, have them sound off much the same way we did in Atlanta.

As for Bob's charge that I'm probably an agent, well, I answer with my art, and if that's not good enough I don't give a shit. Ritual Intoxication was originally called Sons of Spies. Total freedom and openness are the only real options for me - I became a writer, in large part, as a reaction to being spied upon by both the CIA and KGB since I was a teenager. They shouldn't care much about me now...I had several scrapes with them...It's stupid and boring, like the guy who wandered into the bar and offered me a job policy. Speaking of Holland...Kenn, wish I ran into you sooner. Nobody saw my Dam VR photo play...As at least one photo attests, the beaches of the Netherlands are heaven on Earth.

(continued on page 52)

Wilhelm Reich in Vienna

by Jim Martin

In the fall of 1992 I visited Germany and Austria to see my Reichian correspondents and friends and to get a feel for the alien culture which produced this difficult character, Wilhelm Reich. It was an oddly propitious time, coinciding with the third German Re-unification Day, an intensification in neo-Nazi firebombings of foreigners in their hostels, and the death of Social-Democrat German chancellor Willi Brandt.

My host in Germany was Stefan, a medical student who is working on his doctoral thesis on Reich's cancer biopathy theory. I first met Stefan several years ago when he visited the United States. It must have been 1986 because I had just finished printing my book, 1984: *The Summer of*

Hate. I gave him a copy when we met, and after he returned to Germany, he wrote me a long letter regarding the book and the issues raised in it. Since I used a lot of slang and neologisms in my writing, he wrote that he didn't understand a lot of it but his comments were perceptive and I told him he got a better grip on it than almost anyone who had talked to me about it. We began a long correspondence about orgonomy, football (proper) and baseball. It's the most fun I've ever had writing letters, and more ironic because my correspondent was writing in a second language.

Stefan wrote the appendix to Jim DeMeo's landmark work, *Orgone Accumulator Handbook* (\$14.00 postpaid from Flatland, POB 2420, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437). The appendix reported on Stefan's double-blind

study on the physiological effects of the orgone accumulator, showing a consistent body-temperature increase in subjects who sat in the accumulators. That someone could earn their M.D. while writing about Wilhelm Reich - that would be unheard of in the United States; perhaps Germany has learned to loosen up a bit since the Big One. DeMeo has a private theory that Germany

has had its fascist outbreak, while we Americans are still waiting for ours. Time will tell.

If Germany has had its fascist climax, I could still detect the warm afterglow of xenophobia and cultural cocooning. Although the newsmedia today present the neo-Nazis as the only active social force in Germany, I didn't

see one skinhead in the three weeks I was there. Far more common a sight were the familiar columns of leftist anti-racist protestors. To me they looked the same as any demo in Berkeley. When democratic- or libertarian-socialists in the States look for models for what they'd like to institute in this country, they often point to the northern European social systems of Sweden, Denmark and Germany, where the social safety net is extended to all citizens without question. This seems to work as long as we are talking about a homogenous group, but as the borders are collapsing everywhere, we can not Germans to be happy campers in the coming years.

"Do you have many *ausländer* in the States?" she asked.



On the Wienerwald

"We're all *ausländer*," I replied.

"Really? You are from another country?"

"He's talking about his forebears," Stefan helped.

There seems to be a xenophobia ingrained in the very language of the Germans. The problem today is with the Turkish *Gastarbeiters*, or "guest workers". (As in, Come, be our guest, and we'll even let you work.)

Stefan introduced me to some fascinating people in German organology, including my correspondent Peter Nasselstein, who publishes *Zeitschrift für Organologie*, and who was a good friend of Jerome Eden's. A former student of nuclear physics, Peter is a brooding, quiet man, and he seemed to speak little but say much. He had recently sent me an article he wrote called *The New Blue Fascism*, which described in detail how Reich's discoveries about basic life functions would be and are being distorted into a new age fascism. He gave me a lot of information about Reich's days in Vienna, describing various cities in the city that were landmarks of that time.

In Frankfurt I met Bernd Laska, who has been writing a series of books which argue that the most important philosophers in Western thought were Max Stirner, La Mettrie, and Reich. Of particular interest to Laska was the *pre-early Reich* as he called it, the indigent Reich in Vienna just working his way through medical school. Laska believed that what was important about Reich's life was not so much his scientific discoveries, but the manner in which he lived it. He admired Reich's struggle to live his own life, become his own person, outside the parameters of social control and obligation. He says that it would have been ridiculous for a 20-year old Reich to proclaim to the world, "I will live my own life, create my own situation." Therefore, he believes, every-

thing that came after, the character analysis, orgone accumulators, and cloud-busters, was a kind of justification for this early determination to be free.

Stefan had promised to bring me to a soccer game, but didn't fulfill his promise to get us tickets in the hooligan sections. Called "terraces" in England and "tribuna" in Germany, the cheap seats provide at least as many thrills as the action on the field. I had to admit to a little uneasiness in hearing so many drunken Germans burst into song; particularly unsettling were the cheers of "*Steg! Eintracht!*" Eintracht Frankfurt, whose colors are red and black, prevailed that night after a shaky start with a 4-0 win.

Stefan's wife, Sybille, is a particularly charming woman who works with kids as a physical therapist. She returned from work full of tears one evening because of her helplessness in dealing with damaged little lives. One kid had been the victim of documented Satanic sexual abuse. It seems a shame that only hardened people can tolerate working with such troubled kids; I don't

think Sybille will last long at this job.

After visiting with Stefan and Sybille, I went to Düsseldorf for a trip to the Neanderthal Museum with Edith K., a friend of Stefan's who lives near the Neander Valley. That's where the first remains of the Neanderthal Man were found. Neanderthals lived in Northern Europe 60,000 years ago and there is still much debate about how closely related they were to modern humans. Today there is a growing consensus that they had a highly evolved social structure. Suspicious scapings on the bones of their dead cause some researchers to ask if they were cannibals. They buried children dead of miscarriages with full ritual ceremony. Flower pollen found in these gravesites indicates Neanderthals placed bouquets at funerals. They lived in tents on top of the gravesites of their ancestors. Often called "the red ochre people" for their use of magnetic iron ores in

Vienna is a degrading place, full of soviet-style architecture placed next to classical feudal palaces. The ornate facades of the buildings mask overcrowding and housing shortage behind the walls. It's hell to be poor there. I could feel something of Reich's predicament.

burial sites, they were accomplished miners.

Edith, a 68-year old WWII survivor, looks over a scale model of the typical Neandertal village and says to me, "What, no school today?" Edith is sort of a natural Reichian, a long-time advocate of children's rights.

From Düsseldorf, I took a train straight through to Vienna, Austria. No water on the train. Passing into Austria via Passau I noticed heavy cop activity at the border, as though we were entering a police state. Austria has always seen itself as an east-west bridge, and I got a big whiff of eastern-Europe as we travelled down the Danube.



Martin visits old relatives

Vienna is a degrading place, full of soviet-style architecture placed next to classical feudal palaces. The ornate facades of the buildings mask overcrowding and housing shortage. It's hell to be poor there. I could feel something of Reich's predicament; visiting distant relatives for food, living in an unheated closet. You spend the days in cafes to stay warm, under the eyes of the proprietor who keeps provoking you for another cup of coffee, but you must refuse for lack of funds. Above all, a suffocating culture of attitude.

Vienna is a kind of city that forces you to live in your head. Its bookstores have entire sections, even alcoves, devoted to the Masonic, Rosicrucian and Occult mysteries. The old city is defined by The Ring, a series of concentric boulevards that call to mind the "onion skin" metaphor for the superficial layerings of human character armor. It's a spooky place, grey overcast sky, grey dingy buildings. Everyone seemed to be walking around in \$3,000 outfits. Style is everything.

As an indigent rural Jew, Reich for sure had some dues to pay in those early Vienna days. At the beginning, he only survived with

the help of his younger brother, as well as more wealthy girlfriends bringing him food. As I walked around the University of Vienna, located near the heart of the urban core and next to a balkanized working class district, it didn't seem as though the cold, sterile environment had changed much in centuries. It was a cold and rainy day, and I stopped into a building where I could hear a professor droning on and on in German. I wondered if I would have been able to put up with that life. Above all, I understood how lonely the place could be, and how Reich must have struggled. However, by dint of his tutoring other students, he soon became self-supporting and was able to complete his medical degree. Even before graduation, however, he was encouraged by Sigmund Freud to begin seeing psychiatric patients.

Reich's young colleagues were hyperintellectual, chic, and Jewish. The pictures I see of his *démimonde* in those days remind me of nothing so much as the thirty-something lost generation of today, right down to the bobbed hairstyles and aggressive clothing. A vague steam of revolution rises off the old photographs.

Yes, revolution. An anachronistic word, almost. A turning point came for Reich during the 1920s when the workers of Vienna rose and were violently crushed by the old world. In those days, they gunned down the Austrian poor in the streets around the Justizpalaz. Today, in Austria,



it's just plain illegal to be poor: ("Here, Buddy, here's some cash, go buy a suit, you're harshing my mellow. Oh, but excuse me, I can tell by a faint trace in your accent that you're a Czech. Sorry buddy, socialism doesn't apply to *auslanders*. Go die.")

The cafes still house their respective clientele and all their baggage. Squinting in the dimness of the wood-paneled walls, they lurch over teenzy cups of black coffee and discuss great things, or simply make the scene. People commonly pose with tightly crossed legs, squeezing the blood out of the crotch and into the brain.

Vienna has played host to some of history's most interesting characters; the cafes are filled with aspirants to the stage of history. Stalin and Trotsky used to play chess at Cafe Hawelka, and it was at Demel's that Walter Stein first laid eyes on a young painter named Adolf Hitler. Hitler spent much of his time here studying the origins of a ancient relic in the Hofburg called the Spear of Destiny, and initiating himself into the disciplines of satanic sex and drug rituals. Today, Sigmund Freud's stern visage beams out from every Austrian 50 schilling note. I checked, but no coinage featuring Reich's image has yet been minted here.

Reich's reaction to his environment, as well as to his clinical work in the slums of Vienna, was to apply scientific reasoning to the social chaos. He became a Marxist, and by many accounts an extremely obnoxious one. I sympathize with this Reich, although I wouldn't want to have him over for dinner. However, some of his writing from this period is far more radical, coherent and revolutionary than anything that has appeared before or since. Reich and his young colleagues were the first to triangulate the main tenets of Marxism, Psychoanalysis and the conditions of modern civilization. The positions they discovered, described, and

declared reverberate from that day to this.

Which brings me back to Willi Brandt. Brandt, the former social-democratic Chancellor of Germany, died while I was in

Europe, and I recalled fondly his twinkly-eyed visage, although I remembered little of his career. The newspapers all reported that his policy of softening in cold war relations with the Stalinists of Russia, which he called *Ostpolitik*. They also reported, with ill-hidden satisfaction, that one of Willi's top aides took *Ostpolitik* a little too far by divulging top-level NATO secrets to the Soviets. Thus ended Willi's political career, which began as a street-level anti-fascist organizer in pre-War Germany. Willi and Wilhelm were well acquainted.

In fact, when both were forced into exile in Scandinavia, Willi became a subject in Reich's famous study, *The Bio-electrical Investigation of Anxiety and Sexuality*. This book describes Reich's penultimate work, giving tantalizing leads, just before the discovery of orgone. Reich had been pursuing a biological, objective and quantifiable basis for Freud's

theory of the *libido*, the concept of a sexual energy. This concept is the foundation of all psychoanalysis. Reich believed that there must be a physical reality, a biological basis, for this phenomena, that it was no longer good enough to rely on the *libido* concept as a pure metaphor.

In the experiments, subjects were hooked up to sensitive instruments which measured and recorded tiny changes in the electric potential of the skin surface while undergoing a variety of tactile stimulus. While this sounds very technical, they were in reality the prototypes of the biofeedback machines in the seventies. Of course, it must be remembered that little research, if any, had been done on the electrical currents produced by biological organisms. Reich hoped he could record the increased

He became a Marxist, and by many accounts an extremely obnoxious one. I sympathize with this Reich, although I wouldn't want to have him over for dinner.



charge of subjects experiencing pleasure as well as a decrease in charge in those feeling un-pleasure. Thus he could build a case for the physical basis of the libido theory, because he could produce firm data on the expansion and contraction of this little-understood energy.

I remember reading this book and wondering to myself, who in the hell did Reich find to put up with this? Subjects had to be hooked up to monitor graphs which getting stimulated in various ways. Sounds like something that would appear in a cyberpunk novel today, but we're talking about the 1930s, even if it was Scandinavia. Some of the stimulations were pretty tame: tickling of the palm, the taste of salt on the tongue. But many of the graphs reproduced in the back of the book are clear that subjects participated in sexual arousal: "pleasure reaction of an excited nipple", "friction-induced fluctuations of potential at glans penis", "anal mucous membrane of a woman in a state of excitation". The graphs clearly show an increase in energetic potential associated with pleasurable stimulus, but only a scientific

wonk's mind wouldn't wander and imagine the scene.

Willi Brandt didn't have to imagine. He was there, jacked into the grids. Brandt and Reich in the 1930s were fellow members of the expatriate community of Marxist Germans in Norway.

To think that a G-7 world leader participated in these studies boggles my mind. Here's to you, Willi. Reich, of course, was hounded out of Norway as a result of these bioelectric experiments, as well as for his life-genesis experiments on blons. Interestingly enough, when I returned to the states, I met a Danish man visiting here who was actually a committed social democrat who hailed Brandt as the premier leader of all social democrats. I wonder how many of

Brandt's followers understood the work of Reich? It did seem to me, as I travelled, that Reich is regarded differently around northern Europe than here in the States. There is more of a sense that Reich was part of a larger social movement, unlike here, where he has been set off in a corner by himself.

Years later, this is how Willi Brandt recalled the contributions of Wilhelm Reich:

"The idea that authoritarian power also has something to do with sexual repression was, for many, new and strange. That invites narrow-minded

people to deceive themselves about their own stupidity and intellectual capacity by making silly comments, as I put it lately, writing on that subject. It clearly distinguishes him that under the impression of Hitler's rise to power he saw the connection between authoritarian power and the lack of freedom in their personal lives, that he directed all his attention to these correlations and that he did not deal with the question of sexuality solely, as it is

familiar to us from the literature of the time or of the previous century, as a question only pertaining to the bourgeois classes, but that he considered it, as we all know today, to be the central predicament in the life and the experience of the masses, one that occupied, troubled the minds of young working class boys and girls - and that, indeed, was quite a step forth from the classical issues of psychoanalysis." -Willi Brandt (from "Viva Little Man"; *The Book of the Film by Digne Meller Marcovitz*, Nexus, 1987).

It's remarkable that Brandt held Reich in such regard decades after their association in Norway, since I am told by Peter Nassestein that Brandt in later years refused to speak of his former girlfriend, Gertrude Gaasland, who left Brandt to join Reich in



Today, Sigmund Freud's stern visage beams out from every Austrian 50 schilling note. I checked, but no coinage featuring Reich's image has yet been minted here.

America. Gertrude became Reich's laboratory assistant in Forest Hills, New York and introduced him to his third wife, Ilse Ollendorf. Gaasland would later break relations with Reich after a violent argument about the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whom Reich greatly admired. The topic of debate seems to have been the opposition between Reich's admiration of American work democracy and Gaasland's more militant socialist viewpoint.

Gertrude and Will's dreams have been realized and shattered in the intervening years. Socialism seems to work fine as long as everybody looks the same. Perhaps that's the appeal of national socialism as a leftist, working-man's movement. International socialism, or Stalinism, seems to have taken a permanent back seat historically, while the re-unification of the two Germanies presents new questions for social democrats as to what is meant by socialism. In practical terms, no one can deny that most European countries are more "socialist" than the US in terms of broad social guarantees. Yet the social toll of economic drag-anchor can be underestimated. Things just don't move there. The airwaves are dominated by American songs, American commercial jingles, and people sing along perfectly in the cafes but they don't understand a word of what they're saying. I asked some Germans to sing me a German song, but they couldn't. There simply weren't any. I guess it's hard to put a finger on what's missing in these much-vaunted social democracies, but if I had to, I'd say it's missing *life*, as in *get a life*.

Jim Martin publishes *Flatland* and writes most of the reviews for the mail-order catalog of books and periodicals. His writing has appeared in *Version 90*, *Direct Action*, *The Journal of Orgonomy*, *The Ridge Review*, *The Steelhead Special*, *Zeitschrift fur Orgonomie*, *Clutch*, and *Steamshovel Press*. He lives with his wife and two daughters in California.



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software drives their work. (Harris' lecture notes are available for \$8 from him at his new address: POB 170 Willoughby, Ohio 44094) The LEIU collects information on private citizens and gives it to Military Intelligence and the Domestic Contacts division of the CIA. Details of how the Los Angeles police's version, the OCID, or Organized Crime Intelligence Division, spied upon and harassed private citizens, can be found in the recent *LA Secret Police: Inside the LAPD Elite Spy Network* by Mike Rothmiller and Ivan G. Goldman (Pocket Books, \$5.99). The celebrity status of these citizens, of course, is what made it book worthy in this instance.

Another connection between Casolaro and the JFK assassination concerns the Banca del Lavoro, a state-owned Italian bank that apparently the writer was investigating as part of the BCCI tentacle in his Octopus research. According to Sherman Skolnick, a researcher in Chicago, the Banca del Lavoro financed the training of an assassination team in Mexico, some of whom wound up in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963. At present, Attorney General Barr is considering the appointment of a special prosecutor in a case involving \$5 billion dollars in loans to Saddam Hussein made by the Atlanta branch of Banca del Lavoro prior to the Gulf War, the so-called Iraqgate scandal. The Banca del Lavoro is indeed mentioned in the Torbitt Document, "Nomenclature of an Assassination Cabal" by William Torbitt, which has circulated among Kennedy researchers for twenty years, as is Ross Perot. That the Torbitt Document may have originated in the office of Lloyd Bentsen, now named by Bill Clinton as treasury secretary, as well as Bentsen's connection to Defense Industrial Security Command--culprits in the assassination according to the Torbitt Document--should leave the reader a long pause to ruminate over the connections spanning the years.

Back to Michael Riconosciuto, perhaps Don Ecker summed up Riconosciuto's credibility best when he told *Steamship*: "If he told me the same thing in the morning and set in the evening, I'd double check it." Last issue, *Steamship* reported on Riconosciuto's claim that a feud between intelligence factions, one headed by MJ-12 of Roswell saucer crash fame, had led to Casolaro's revelations. These claims were supported by Gunther Rueschmeyer, the pilot who also claims to have video proof that he flew George Bush in a F-4 on a surprise meeting.

Ecker notes in the latest issue of *CFR Magazine* (Vol. 8, No. 1, 1993) that Riconosciuto also claimed to have witnessed an EV autopsy with Robert Booth Nichols, another ominous figure in the Insomniac. To be sure, everything Michael Riconosciuto says is meant to curry favor, to get money or to bring his story to someone in the entertainment industry who can turn it into a movie or a book deal. Nevertheless, Riconosciuto's claims about the modifications of the Promis software were supported by affidavits from Israeli intelligence asset Ari Ben-Menasche (who offers more details of his own in a new book, *Profits of War*, Sheridan Square, \$24.95) and Iranian arms dealer Richard Babayan, both of whom came across pirated copies of Promis through Carl Brian and his friend, Reagan national security adviser Robert McFarland.

Riconosciuto is also one of the few and earliest sources for word on the airstrip in Mena, Arkansas used as a hub for the Iran/contra drugs and guns traffic, the investigation of which then-governor Bill Clinton soft-pedaled to the extent that he squeaked it. According to the *Village Voice*, Riconosciuto claims association with Terry K. Reed, a self-proclaimed CIA asset who trained contra pilots at Mena ("Clinton and the Smuggler's Airport," by Frank Snepp, *Village Voice*, April 14, 1992.) Reed's airplane, so goes the story, was stolen when he refused to give it to the Company's "Operation Donation," which was represented by John Cathey, aka Ollie North. Legal entanglements to recover the loss of the plane put Reed at odds with "Buddy" Young, Clinton's security chief. Reed's other associations include the downed contra pilot Eugene Hassenfus and JFK assassination veteran Felix Rodriguez.

Riconosciuto tells of a connection between the Arkansas Development Funding Authority (ADFA), from which Clinton fired contra player Larry Nichols--whose subsequent lawsuit led to the Jennifer Flowers revelations--and Park-on-Meter (POM), a company in Little Rock that made fuel tanks and helped develop chemical weapons at Mena. Riconosciuto's revelations supplement the small but growing amount of information about Mena, perhaps best summarized in the latest issue of Paul Krassner's newsletter, *The Realist* ("Clinton's Cocaine Connection" by Mark Giacomelli, *The Realist* Number 122, Winter 1993). It appears that the strip was used as a major center for guns and drugs smuggling since the early 1980s, most notably by a trafficker named Barry Seal, to the extent that Bill Clinton claims to have authorized the use of \$25,000 in state funds to investigate and prosecute charges stemming from the activity there. The prosecuting attorney in the area claims the money never came. Other critics charge that even if it had, the amount is a drop in the bucket compared to what a full-blown investigation would have cost. Clinton's reactions to George Bush's Christmas

pardons for Caspar Weinberger and other Iran-contra figures were limited to laments over Weinberger's lying to Congress. Clinton remained silent about the underlying policy issues, which many in the press identify only as the Reagan arms-for-hostages deal. As the Mena story emerges as an important one during the Clinton administration this identification perforce will expand to include the role of drug trafficking in the nefarious Iran-contra affair.

Meanwhile, the Inslaw case lingers and spooks are doing untold things with the data collected through Promis. One such spook group, Wackenhut, was involved with both the Promis modifications and the contra resupply effort in tandem with the native American Cabazons in Indio, California, according to Riconosciuto. By 1966 Wackenhut had over four million files on dissident Americans collected at the direction of founder, George Wackenhut (see: "Inside The Shadow CIA" by John Connolly, *Spy Magazine*, Volume 6, September 1992). George Wackenhut was a former FBI agent who apparently patterned his world view after J. Edgar Hoover's collecting and storing information on as many people as possible. He founded and developed his private security firm through a legal loophole in the law preventing such groups from working for the government. As such, Wackenhut remains a private police force that in many ways stands outside the slim boundaries of responsibility ostensibly foisted upon the alphabet soup of government intelligence (CIA, FBI, DIA, ONI, etc., the agencies to which all top Wackenhut administrators belonged). It maintains private jails and contracts to take over police services, including surveillance. Don Ecker also notes that the oil consortium Aleyska hired Wackenhut to perform a variety of phone tapping and intercepts to disrupt a team of environmental whistleblowers.

Clinton's reactions to George Bush's Christmas pardons for Caspar Weinberger and other Iran-contra figures were limited to laments over Weinberger's lying to Congress. Clinton remained silent about the underlying policy issues, which many in the press identify only as the Reagan arms-for-hostages deal. As the Mena story emerges as an important one during the Clinton administration this identification perforce will expand to include the role of drug trafficking in the nefarious Iran-contra affair.

Wackenhut has contracted to provide security services to Area 51, the site outside of the Nellis Air Force base in Nevada that has almost become a Mecca for UFO watchers. Sightings of unidentified flying objects are commonplace at Area 51, as are sightings of advanced conventional aircraft, stories of a nearby underground base manned by humans and aliens and rumors that a space shuttle launches from there on regular flights to bases on the moon. Reports have it that Wackenhut personnel have harassed skywatchers, chasing them by the van-load, physically threatening them at gunpoint and confiscating camera equipment. Indeed, Wackenhut played a role in covering up an illegal takeover of 89,000 acres from families near Area 51 in 1986-87 that eventually led to a secret congressional investigation.

At the invitation of Bob Brown, organizer of the annual International UFO Congress in Las Vegas, Steamshovel editor Kenn Thomas travelled to Las Vegas to speak on the UFO work of Wilhelm Reich. After the lecture he took the three hour trip into the desert with a group of UFO watchers that included researchers Rob Baldwin, Shawn Atlanti, Susan Low, German video documentary producer Michael Hesseman (whose documentary on crop circles, "The Mystery of the Crop Circles--Messages From Another World", won an EBE award at the Congress) and as many as a half dozen others, along with a video crew from television station KTNV Channel 13 consisting of reporter Steve Crupi and cameraman Clay Downey. As the sun went down, in a period from 6PM to 9:45PM, the group witnessed four unusual aerial displays. Some in the group speculated that one of these sightings might have been a truck-mounted, diversionary spotlight used by Wackenhut personnel to taunt ufologists. One of the other sightings was identified by Sean Morton, author of *The Millenium Factor* who caught up with group at the Little A 'Le' Inn diner (a skywatcher-hang out in nearby Rachel, NV 89001) later in the evening, as an exotic SDI flare. (Morton witnessed it from a vantage point in Warm Springs, sixty miles away. Morton and his group, the Delphi Associates, have done a great deal of field work in Area

51. An interview with Morton will appear in the Saucer Section of the next *Steamshovel*. His book, *The Millenium Factor*, is available for \$20 from the Delphi Associates, 2207 Hermosa Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254). The two remaining light-in-the-sky events that night remain unidentified.

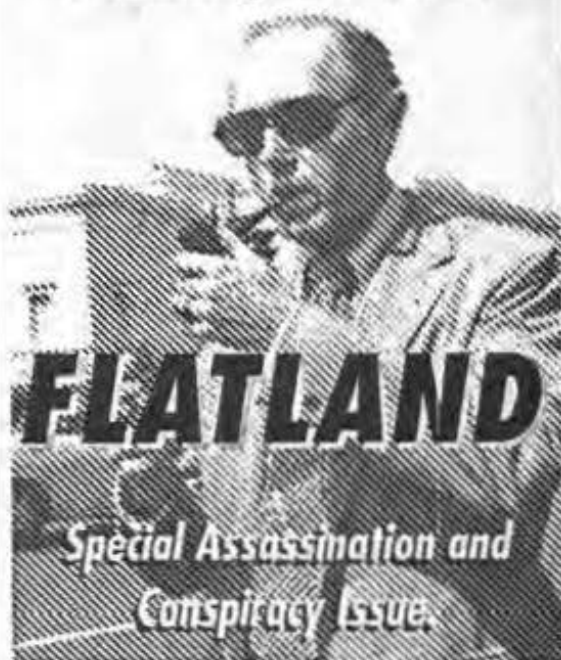
In the discussion on the trip through the desert and at the Little A'Le' Inn afterwards, many participants described incidents of harassment at the hands of Wackenhut personnel. One major common concern involved the youth of many rank-and-file Wackenhut recruits: teenagers dangerously armed and indoctrinated to believe they belong to an elite official guard ("Wacken-offs," one observer quipped). Signs now adorn the area announcing the authorized use of lethal force by Wackenhut.

Wackenhut's presence as dirty-trick specialists was also felt when Robert Lazar defected from his work at Area 51 and began confessing to back-engineering captured alien spacecraft for the government to television reporter George Knapp. Similarly, *Steamshovel Press*'s attempts to obtain a copy of KTNV's broadcast of the videotaped UFOs and interviews with members of the group met with an official stonewall. Reporter Crupi advised that a tape would routinely be made available through channel 13's Shoshona video service. Shoshona said that the news division told it not to release that particular report. When contacted a second time, Crupi provided a weak explanation: station management did not want the footage falling into the hands of a competing station. Was this more Wackenhut spin control?

A tape of the broadcast, a camera transfer made from a TV set in the hotel room of a UFO Congress participant--did eventually circulate in the ufological underground. "Bootlegged" information artifacts such as this are perhaps the best defense against the threat of surveillance tool like Promis. It is surprising, in fact, that hackers have not yet reproduced a copy of Promis for study somewhere in cyberspace.

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A Party at Tim Leary's!

Q: I understand we're in the middle of a party. We're crashing.

Leary: Well, welcome to the party! We certainly want intelligent people to join us. My son is living with a wonderfully brilliant dress underwear designer and we're having an off-the-rack show party for her. We have a lot of interesting people here. We've got Paul Krassner here walking around and Jerry Rubin somewhere in the house...we're loaded with talent!

My daughter-in-law has designed silk underwear for men and women in robes and I'm modeling. I'm modeling a fantastic harlequin shirt right now.

I'm going to be the master of ceremonies of what's going on here. I'm going to give you the greatest minds of southern California, if that's not an oxymoron.

First let me introduce Paul Krassner, a culture hero from the 60s-70s-80s, started *The Realist* magazine and has been on the front lines fighting for pornography, freedom, good humor.

Krassner: Hello, this is me.

Q: Hi, Paul. We're crashing your party.

Krassner: Tim Leary is great for buck passing.

Q: How are things with *The Realist* and all?

Krassner: It used to be a magazine now it's a newsletter. I don't have the energy I used to put out a magazine every month. Besides, there's competition now. There never used to be competition.

Q: There's competition for *The Realist*?

Krassner: When I started it there was only *Mad Magazine* for teenagers. There was no *National Lampoon*, or *Spy*, there was no *Saturday Night Live*, there was no *Doonesbury*. So I had an open field of taboos to explode.

Q: You outlived Bill Gaines anyway.

Krassner: I know. In fact, the issue of *The Realist* that is on the press now is dedicated to Bill. It has on the cover a portrait of Alfred E. Newman being crucified. It says, "So Bill Gaines So Loved The World He Gave His Only Begotten Icon." You now how *Mad* had these pages you could fold in a certain way? When you fold this up, there's an image of Bill Gaines.

Q: Do you think Bill Gaines' demise had anything to do with the George Bush/Alfred E. Newman likeness appearing on the cover of *Esquire* the same month?

Krassner: One time I was such a conspiracy nut I would have believed that. Now I try to find a balance between coincidence and conspiracy. It's hard sometimes. Is it a coincidence that they may drop bombs on Iraq during the Republican convention, or is it just timing?

Q: Just comedic timing. Or tragic timing.

Krassner: One of my conspiracies was that the comedians conspired to make jokes about Dan Quayle as a diversion from the real reason he was chosen as vice president. During the Iran-contra hearings, a guy named Rob Owen testified and he was courier for Oliver North and he operated out of then-Senator Dan Quayle's office. So Quayle was not plucked out of obscurity as the *Washington Post* says. He had already proved himself to being a player in the game. In the series by Bob Woodward they said that he was actually campaigning for the vice presidency, which I just translate as implied blackmail.

Q: Do remember anything of his campaign where he defeated Elrich Bayh?

Krassner: No, not really, but I'm sure the John Birch society had something to do with it.

Q: Can we collect your impressions of this party? Is Tim Leary actually modeling underwear?

Krassner: Yeah. This is a very pragmatic party. His daughter-in-law is a clothes designer. So somebody ask me which I would prefer her in and she showed me see-through pajamas and a see-through bath robe. And Tim himself is wearing a shirt with a price-tag on it. So it's getting hard for us satirists to make up things because reality keeps nipping at our heels. Somebody said Tim was modeling a t-shirt but it was really his own from the last political campaign. It said, "Think Green, Vote Brown."

Q: So he doesn't have the virtual reality gloves on and the goggles.

Krassner: No, no. I could use a little virtual reality myself.

Q: It's that kind of party, right?

Krassner: Because there's different circles of friends from different circles of Tim's and so they start off in different groups and sort of intermingle around the potato chips.

Q: Have you seen Gordon Liddy?

Krassner: No. Gordon Liddy must have rats to eat. Let me introduce Anita Hoffman, who was one of the founders of the Yuppies and she wrote a book under the name of Ann Phetamine called *Trash*. *Trashing*, excuse me. "Trash" was the review.

Hoffman: Wonderful party here with many people who haven't seen each other in years and years. We all hope to have an impact in the 90s. And Abbie's certainly still here with us in spirit.

Q: Do you do any writing these days yourself?

Hoffman: With Tim, I'm sort of moving into the new electronic age. The computer-cyber revolution. I'm in the process of producing interactive multi-media software. I work for a very innovative company called the Voyager company. I think that part of the legacy is wanting to translate so much of our culture and our ideals into electronic form that it will be available in the future. I think everything is being transformed into that. The company I work for is a pioneer with electronic books, in fact. Translating many books. In fact, Ken Kesey's new book is going to come out in electronic form as well as print. CD-ROM. Even as we speak the interface becomes easier and easier. I'm not a technoid, unfortunately. But it's getting easier.

Q: Is it getting any cheaper, though? If these really are tools to empower people, how do you get them into the hands of people who can't typically afford them or typically afford even food to eat?

Hoffman: I totally agree. But they are coming down in price and I think we're moving in that direction. There is a vision behind this which Tim has been one the foremost articulators of, which is simply that I lot of feel that we're helping build a new nervous system for the planet, which is electronic communication. So you hope that will have an effect like, for instance, in the Rodney King beating, which is on video. It had a huge effect as information. We were involved in this revolution in information with McLuhan way back. That was the beginning of it with television and it keeps moving forward. I think we hope that as the planet becomes smaller we solve some of the problems because people become more aware of the problems. You can't shut it out any more.

Q: We saw a lot references to the Persian Gulf War as the first Cyber War. A lot people watched that on their video screens and their cable TV at home. The technology always seems to fall so concretely into the hands of the people that make war.

Hoffman: I agree. It was like a video game. We have to change that. It's horrifying to have kids...I have a teenage son who grew up playing computer games and as we know those are sort of like bombing raids at your desk. That is a danger. But I know Tim and I and other people are trying to translate the good stuff into that electronic form so that learning becomes a fun experience. It's going to revolutionize learning. I think that basically it's a really good, positive thing and it's not all in the hands of the military. I think it's going to come out OK. The New Age that we're coming into is going to be interactive and you can create your own works by putting together different kinds of materials. I don't think that there's a way that it can be censored at a certain point. I don't think ultimately it can be controlled. I'm not saying that they aren't going to try.

Q: But there'll be so much of it that the government won't be able to monitor it all.

Hoffman: Exactly. So I'm essentially an optimist, although I know there are terrible things happening in our world, as usual. I would like to introduce Jerry Rubin, another Yuppie founder.



Rubin: I was just playing with a computer here and I got so scared. I lost everything but it just came back.

Q: Is Tim passing around laptops instead of Tupperware?

Rubin: No. I was playing with the Mac computer in his office and all of a sudden everything disappeared off the screen. The last thing I want to do is erase all his genius, right? But it all came back, so I'm OK.

Q: Are you heavily into the computer thing too?

Rubin: Not quite as heavily as everybody else is. I use a Mac computer. I couldn't live without it. I can't imagine how I lived without it in the past. I can't imagine how I got through the sixties without a computer. I can't imagine how I wrote five books without a computer. I can't imagine how I would ever do business without a computer. I was one of the last people to get into the computer world. I don't put a lot of time into the advanced uses of the computer. I mainly use it for practical purposes. I send messages to people to get them to do what I want them to do.

Q: What would that be?

Rubin: I'm involved with teaching people how to be entrepreneurs and teaching people how to make money and how to improve their nutri-

tional lives. I'm involved with a number of companies. I have seven or eight faxes on the desks of all my people before they wake up in the morning. I couldn't do that without the Mac computer.

Q: We were talking to Anita about how computer technology is used by the warfare culture.

Rubin: Computers are tools that can be used for good or evil. Like money, right? Money can be used to build the future or it can be used for destructive, wasteful things. The computer is no different in the advance of consciousness than...it can be a part of the war machine, it can be part of gambling and be a part of everything. Like any thing else, it's important that the right value system controls the computer world.

Q: One of the problems that computers have that, say, pencils don't is that they're money intensive. The poor, who really need to communicate with people better than anybody else, can barely get their hands on that kind of equipment.

Rubin: That's not going to be the case in ten years. In ten years everyone's going to have a computer. There used to be a time when not everybody had a telephone. I remember a time when not everyone had a television. I'm old enough to remember the debate over whether or not to buy a color TV. That was an extravagant purchase. The computer now is becoming more

and more democratic in the sense that pretty soon there's going to be hand-held computers and so forth and the cost will go way down. In the long run the computer will be a liberating instrument for people who don't have the financial means to own the expensive computers that now exist. Look how a television in every home has changed the world. So why wouldn't a computer in every home change the world? And why wouldn't a computer be cost effective for everybody? I think basically technology is democratic and liberating, except in the one example you used, when it's used in a war.

Q: Is the world you live in now one that you expected when you began your public life in the sixties?

Rubin: It's very different than I expected, but then all expectations never happen the way you expect them to happen. Instead what happens is a reality. So you have to accept reality. I never thought that the world going on today would be going on. I never thought that the black-white gulf would be as great as it is.

Q: What happened there in your opinion?

Rubin: Economics became such an overwhelming issue that people became survival conscious. And survival meant taking care of yourself first. And that was the wedge they drove between black and white. But here's what's happening: the baby boomers have not taken over yet. People in their thirties and forties who created the sixties, created the woman's movement, created the computer revolution, who Tim is a great example of a leader, although he's not a baby boomer, have not taken over yet. I believe that the changes you are going to see in America in the next four years will be the culmination of all the basic values of the sixties. The verdict on the sixties will be determined in the nineties. The key may not be Gore and Clinton but the forces behind them, people in their thirties and forties who still have the sixties dream in their heart. You can't imagine what's going to happen in the next four years. Awesome. I predicted every decade. I predicted the sixties. I predicted the inner development of the seventies. And five years ago you can go back to an Associated Press interview with me in which I said a yuppie would be elected in the White House in this election.

Q: Has anybody button-holed Dr. Leary yet?

Leary: Hello!

Q: Thank you for letting us crash the party.

Leary: These people all are doing state of the art stuff right now in computers and smart drugs and, of course, Krassner is always trouble making. We happy to share the afternoon with you.

Q: Let's ask you: if computers are really empowering tools how do you get them into the hands of the poor?

Leary: You have a Nintendo on the market for about a hundred dollars. You add the CD-ROM attachment. You can give every school kid in the world, in the third world or the inner city, any poor kid, the equivalent to do this for ten percent of what they now spend on text books that kids don't read and that are causing the destruction of the Amazon rain forest. So wood pulp is out. They don't just read the book, they perform the book, they put it on screens. Imagine if a teacher was going to bring into the classroom a \$69, any graphic video player, *Donkey Kong* player, with a CD-ROM and we're going to do a film about the Civil War. It's available right now. It's just that society and education and the bureaucracies have not caught up with it. But it's going to happen.

Q: Why do you think there is that hesitation?

Leary: They don't want to change. Once you have kids putting things on screen, they're not going to believe the screen anymore. It's truly revolutionary. We're also developing software that you can create your own trance state, you can re-imprint yourself, you can hypnotize yourself with your friends and not be hypnotized as the American public is who watch TV seven hours a day now. That's brainwashing and they know how to do it. Use the right brain trance state to tell you that the night belongs to Michelob and George Bush will save you from Willie Horton and blah, blah, blah. You can do it your self.

Anyway, it's been fun and stay in touch. We are here in Beverly Hills on Sunday afternoon putting the high back in high technology!

SAUCER SECTION

John Keel Discusses Winged Cats, Mothmen and Unidentified Flying Objects

Q: *Mothman Prophecies* (IllumiNet, 15.95) is regarded as a classic in the ufological world and it details your experiences in Point Pleasant, West Virginia in the mid 1960s but the book wasn't published until the mid-1970s.

A: It took almost ten years for the book to be published. It came out around 1975. The New York editors had never heard about some of the things in the book and didn't care very much. They only know what they read in the *New York Times*. If they didn't see it in the *Times* then it doesn't exist for them. Although this material got nationwide publicity it didn't get much publicity in New York City itself. That was a handicap.

Q: Did you get interested in the story at Point Pleasant by reading the papers?

A: No, I happened to be in West Virginia when the story broke. I was there investigating a winged cat.

Q: A winged cat?

A: Yes, there was a famous winged cat down in West Virginia. A young boy had found this cat in a woods and he decided it was worthy of public attention and so he charged ten cents a look. All of his neighbors lined up to see this winged cat for ten cents. He came to New York and did the Today show. The cat's name, as I recall, was Thomas. And then one of his neighbors suddenly appeared and said, "That my cat!" and demanded the cat back. There was a big controversy about this winged cat down in Beckley West Virginia. And I was in Beckley, West Virginia when this story in Point Pleasant broke. So I went and talked with the witnesses there and got involved with this.

Q: The Point Pleasant experiences, of course, all involved a winged man.

A: This was two young married couples in an automobile, driving through an area outside of Point Pleasant called the TNT area. It was really a sort of lover's lane kind of thing, a sort of isolated area. It had been used in the Second World War to manufacture high explosives and had been closed ever since. They were driving through this area and they suddenly saw this large creature standing next to a building there. He was larger than a large man, they said, and he had fiercely glowing red eyes. And suddenly he spread his wings and he had a ten foot wing span and he started chasing the automobile. And these teenagers, they were all under twenty years old so I'll call them teenagers, they were so terrified that they drove as fast as their jalopy would take them to the local police station. It takes quite a lot to get teenagers to go to the police in any town. They were terrified. And the police were very impressed by their story. So the police held a press conference the next day and the story carried on all the wire services. That's how it all began.

In the end, I had tracked down over a hundred witnesses, all of whom had seen this creature. Some of them very prominent people in the area. One was a local banker, the head of the Chamber of Commerce. Eventually the wife of one of the deputy sheriffs saw this thing. Quite a few people saw it. But nobody ever got a picture of it.

Q: And what about the winged cat? Didn't the Today Show have actual video of the cat?

A: Oh, yes. Unfortunately, the cat shed its wings. The wings fell off. That ended the controversy. When the wings fell off it was just another cat and so the neighbor said, "That's not my cat! I don't want that cat!" So the boy had the cat Thomas, I guess, until it died.

SAUCER SECTION

Q: The appearance of Mothman, of course, was just the beginning of the weirdness at Point Pleasant, right?

A: It got more and more complicated as time went on. The witnesses to this thing began to have other experiences., UFO type experiences. Interference with their television sets, strange phone calls, a multitude of things like poltergeist manifestations. It just seemed to grow and grow. And people began to see UFO type lights over the TNT area itself and finally great crowds of people would gather every night to watch the UFOS go over. You could almost set your watch by them. All up and down the Ohio Valley they were seeing things during that period anyway. Between 1964 and 1968 there were thousands of UFO sighting all over the country, in fact all over the world. It was a major UFO wave.

In the Army I studied psychological warfare. I was a propaganda writer in the Army. I know quite a bit about psychology and I certainly know a lot about these people in West Virginia and other areas. And they're usually not seeking attention and they're certainly not the kind of people who have that kind of imagination that would make something up. Most of them are often very sorry afterwards that they even said anything to anybody.

Q: So what is your theory with regard to what is happening there?

Q: I don't deal with theories. I'm not a theorist. I've had a lifetime background in journalism and professional writing. I really don't have any major theories about any of this. I just find that none of theories that have been put forth work. The extraterrestrial does not work at all when you the study all of the aspects of the UFO phenomenon. It simply doesn't work. We're dealing with manifestations that have been reported throughout the centuries, not just in modern times.

Our version of reality is probably as wrong as an ant's version of its reality. The ant can only perceive things immediately around it and then it perceives it in a wrong way.

Q: And human beings are really in that same predicament?

A: Oh, we really have no sensory equipment at all. Our eyes are very limited in what they can see and our hearing is also very limited. Many animals have better hearing than we do. An eagle certainly has better eyesight. Our perceptions are very wrong in many ways.

Our version of reality is probably as wrong as an ant's version of its reality.



available from Steamshovel Press

Unidentified Flying Objects, 1956

In his last published work, the long suppressed *Contact With Space*, Wilhelm Reich claimed that the Air Force was given one of his UFO studies along with actual UFO footage contained on this film. The film is in black and white as is much of the acting style found here, but the UFO footage is color.

WR-The Mysteries of the Organism, 1972

Winner of the Luis Buñuel Award at the 1971 Cannes Film Festival, this film contains the only available documentary footage of Wilhelm Reich and the cloudwater apparatus he used to battle with "space machines." WR also contains artistic interpretations of Reich's ideas. Among the interpreters: Yoko Kashiwagi of the Flugs.

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SAUCER SECTION

UFOs and Fugos

by Terry Sofian

There has been some discussion in recent literature that a weapons system used by the Japanese during the closing stages of World War Two was responsible for the events now called the Roswell Incident. To judge this argument, the nature of the Japanese weapons, long range free balloons, and their operational use must be known.

The Japanese had begun experimenting with a series of secret weapons during the 1930s. Of these only the balloon bomb was to reach operational service. The idea was to design a weapon that could be produced cheaply and carry a useful military payload intercontinental distances. The payload could consist of small incendiary or high explosive bombs or biological weapons. The Japanese military had considerable interest in biological weapons during this period and may have used them operationally in China. The project slowly faded in the period before Pearl Harbor but was revived following the air-strike by Doolittle and his sixteen B-25 Mitchell bombers against targets on the Japanese Home Islands. This raid took place on April 18, 1942. The Japanese high command immediately instituted a number of reprisals against the areas in China where the planes, which had been launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet, landed. They also began an operation to destroy the remaining United States Pacific Fleet, which was to culminate with their stunning defeat at the Battle of Midway. The third program that the Japanese high command began was to attempt to develop a means to strike directly at targets on the American Mainland, without risking valuable resources.

The method that was finally chosen was to construct large numbers of cheap balloons and, when the winds were favorable, to release them. The high altitude winds would carry them to North America where they would release their payloads. The balloons called Fin-Go by the Japanese would then self destruct, leaving little evidence of their nature. The Japanese designers had to overcome a number of technical difficulties to produce a platform that could maintain a constant altitude for the fifty or seventy hour journey across the Pacific. The aerostatic platform consisted of a gas bag or envelope with a volume of 19,070 cubic feet. Using Hydrogen as a lifting gas gave a ground level lifting power of almost 1000 pounds. The genius of the design was in a small mechanical device that allowed the aerostat to maintain its constant altitude. This device linked paired ballast bags with the gas release valve at the top of the envelope. When the balloon rose to high the automatic pressure release valve opened venting hydrogen lifting gas. When the balloon sank to low and altimeter sent a signal to small explosive bolts that held paired sand ballast bags releasing them and there by reducing the weight of the balloon. When all the ballast was released the military payload was dropped by the same mechanism. The payload on operational balloons consisted of incendiary bombs designed to cause forest fires in the great evergreen stands of the American West and high explosive bombs to cause direct civilian casualties.

Two types of envelopes were built by the Japanese, a cheaper silk paper one and one of more expensive rubbered silk. The rubbered silk balloons carried radio equipment to help determine the effectiveness of the weapons. They could be tracked to their targets by long range radio receivers. Unfortunately the rubbered silk was more permeable to gas than was the cheaper paper and those balloons with that envelope type failed to reach the United States. Additionally, a news black-out imposed by the United States Army prevented the Japanese intelligence community from acquiring information on the balloons' effectiveness. After launching more than 9000 balloons the program was cancelled due to this inability to determine its effectiveness. The date of the program's deactivation was in March of 1945.

John Keel asserts that it was this news blackout that prevented the Army Air Corp from announcing the true nature of the device at Roswell. The news blackout was had been lifted after the death of a woman and five children near Lakeview, Oregon, when one exploded while they were examining it. This was in May of 1945, two years before Roswell. Additionally a nationwide advisory bulletin was posted by the Defense Department on January 1, 1955 after the live payload of a balloon was discovered in Alaska.

There is little doubt that the mechanics of the balloon, with its automatic release valve and paper construction, would have made it impossible to remain aloft for two years. The majority of these devices could not survive even the seventy hours it required to cross the Pacific. It also seems highly unlikely that the balloon would have landed in New Mexico after having travelled for so long even had it been possible.

New from IllumiNet Press



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Since 1975 a document purporting to reveal the identity of the conspirators in the John F. Kennedy assassination has circulated hand-to-hand, and has been the subject of much discussion and debate among researchers into the dark realms of political conspiracy. Printed in numerous underground editions, this is *A Skeleton Key to the Gemstone File*, consisting of the original synopsis of the conspiratorial theories and lore of deceased conspiracy researcher Bruce Roberts. There has never been a critical evaluation of the startling claims of *The Gemstone File* until now.

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Jim Keith, the editor of *The Gemstone File*, is the author of over 200 pieces of published fiction, as well as the editor of the no-holds-barred journal *Dharma Combat*. He has gathered a dozen articles by well-known conspiracy researchers that include Robert Anton Wilson (author of *Illuminatus!* trilogy), Jonathan Vankin (author of *Conspiracies, Cover-ups and Crimes*), Kerry W. Thornley (author of *The Idle Warriors*), Len Bracken (author of *Free Play*), and ground-breaking conspiratologist Mae Brussell.

The Gemstone File is, without a doubt, the most detailed examination of the claims of the *Skeleton Key* ever attempted, and will provide new insights to anyone who has ever wondered about the truth of this controversial document. Within the pages of this book, *The Gemstone File* is revealed in sharper focus, and new revelations are provided through information gathered in interviews with Stephanie Caruana, friend of Bruce Roberts and editor of the original *Skeleton Key*.

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Carl Oglesby

on Oswald, Reinhard Gehlen and Clinton-Gore

Q: First, let me congratulate you for turning in a book on JFK that is shorter than an inch thick and still very comprehensive (*Who Killed JFK?*, Odonian Press, \$5.95).

A: Thanks, I think. That was the thought. The publisher brought that idea to me and I would never have been smart enough to think it up. But he was of the view of, being a San Francisco publisher, that there was need for a book that you could read on that flight from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The book needed to be on some interesting subject upon which you felt some need of instruction so that you could feel good about yourself, you had used that hour and a half or whatever.

I hope the book finds the audience that was intended. I think, well, the publishers intent in any case, was to get me to write a book for your basic, average, normal, sophisticated, urbanized spirit, intellect, who has always heard this argument about the JFK assassination going on over his/her shoulder and has never really wanted to pay any attention to it. For one thing because it's clear at a glance that there's an incredibly large information burden. If you take on the case you have to learn a lot. You have to develop views about lots of uncomfortable, exotic subjects. So I think a good many, can I say, general intellectuals or people of general intellectual spirit, have all these years tended to stay away from the Kennedy assassination case on the grounds that it's really too lurid, too gross, too complex for words and anyway Oswald probably did it after all. But now, I think, going on three decades later, it's finally clear to an overwhelming majority of well-educated Americans that we don't know the truth about what happened in Dealey Plaza in 1963. Period. We don't know it. And it's important. And we can't rest easy in ignorance. At least in that respect things have changed.

Q: What end does the opening of the government files on the Kennedy assassination serve?

A: First, I think is the question of the documents from the Warren Commission, from various panels and other commissions that have investigated the case in whole or in part or reviewed it or reviewed the Warren Commission's work or listened to some new witness who showed up and then there was, of course, the work of the 1978 Select Committee. That generated an enormous amount of documentation which was classified and never released and never referred to and never developed in the committee hearings or in the final report. I could give you one very important example of that: there was an investigator named Juan Edwin Lopez who worked for the Select Committee, the Assassination Committee staff. Lopez was given an assignment to investigate the stories that Oswald had been in Mexico City in September before the assassination and that he had made an appearance at the Soviet embassy on a few occasions and ditto the Cuban consulate. And, long story short, Lopez comes back from this investigation and writes a two hundred and ninety page report that says "that wasn't Oswald in Mexico City at all, that was somebody pretending to be Oswald. Oswald took a trip and maybe went to Mexico City, but it wasn't Oswald at the embassy or the consulate." Now that would have been a very explosive piece of news had it been allowed to come out in 1977 or early '78 when Lopez discovered it and wrote it up. The Select Committee, however, despite all its promises that it was going to let the sun shine in on who killed JFK chose to sit on that. It classified the Lopez report, didn't publish the Lopez report, never referred to the Lopez report, never gave even a half-sentence of a phrase to describe Lopez's amazing discovery and now these days, with all its pious talk of deciding to release these secret documents generated by all these public paid for investigations, they're not going to release the Lopez report. Suddenly. This was a news story just three or four weeks ago. Congress will not release the Lopez report.

Q: And did they say why not?

A: The CIA is going crazy about it because once it gets established that Oswald was in fact being impersonated not only in Mexico City but in Dallas, in El Paso, in Austin. Once that gets established for a fact then people are going to understand that Oswald, whatever else he was, was no loner. He

was a...my goodness, one of the most totally controlled...he was a puppet on the strings of an elaborate intelligence operation whose roots, whose ultimate identity Oswald didn't know anymore than you and I do. But the new consensus that's developing among at least the researchers that I pay most attention to was that Oswald was exactly what he said he was. He was a patsy. He was set up to take the blame for something that he never did. And part of the realization of this about Oswald is involved in understanding that he was impersonated by people obviously operating in an intelligence mode and that he therefore has to be considered an intelligence operative on a set of strings and nothing that he does can be said to have been done out of his own private internal initiative. He's a totally controlled character. That has to be understood. We're going to have some trouble deciding whether he was controlled by the CIA, by some obscure military outfit called Field Operations Intelligence, or FOI, or by some branch of G2 or Naval Intelligence or the Russians or the Cubans. It's not going to be easy to figure out what Oswald's position actually was in full detail.

Q: How much of the actual technique and philosophy of the Nazis still permeates U. S. intelligence?

A: I wonder how much the question is one of techniques rather than political objectives. There's a long record beginning with intervention in certain union struggles in Greece and Italy and France and Britain and West Germany that the...the CIA for a long time has been building a record as being a rather nasty agent on the scene. Always under cover. In Latin America it has a lousy record of backing every fascist in the house and doing everything it can do to bring down any government the least committed to reform and progress in the popular sense of the term. To the degree to which this true, the CIA has to be regarded as a political renegade. It has not been under the control of presidents. Rather, it has used its exclusive ability to manufacture the most secret information as a way to deceive, to hornswoggle presidents. I think Eisenhower got hornswoggled.

Q: So the President became the instrument of the CIA, not the other way around.

A: Sure, as long as you can control the information that is going to the President on the most privileged basis then you don't have to worry about what the President actually believes or desires or where his heart is. You can manipulate him easily into doing exactly what it is that you want him to do unless he is very strong willed. I think Kennedy was strong willed and that's what got him in trouble with the people who wanted to manipulate him and finally found out that they couldn't do it.

Q: The philosophy of the men that would accept the kind of input offered by Reinhard Gehlen into the U. S. intelligence community is interesting.

A: Exactly. Let me just try to lay out the ABCs of this story. Reinhard Gehlen was Hitler's top spy master in the latter phases of World War Two and he especially soared to power in the period after the revolt of the generals and in a period when the SS took command of the entire government and all the military operations. It was during that period that this guy Reinhard Gehlen flourished and went from being the chief of an outfit called Foreign Armies East, which was a bunch of fascist underground groups in Eastern Europe and inside the Soviet Union, to being the head of western-oriented intelligence operations as well.

The war had already been lost on a chess board by early 1943 and it seems that early in 1943 the top Nazi command around Martin Bormann, who was number two under Hitler, made a secret decision, that is a decision kept secret from Hitler, to prepare for defeat. The reason they were going to prepare for defeat was that they didn't beat the Russians in time to turn their forces around and get them back on the western front so that they would be there to meet the Americans when they came. Therefore, the Americans were going to be able to establish a foothold. They were going to invade France and therefore Germany was going to lose the chess game. So it was prudent at that point to begin

I think Kennedy was strong willed and that's what got him in trouble with the people who wanted to manipulate him and finally found out that they couldn't do it.

Oswald was part of an intelligence sphere where identities such as American, Russian, German, French, lose their meaning and everything blurs into a whirl of alliances and psuedo-alliances and loyalties and fake loyalties.

planning for defeat, to make sure that you could undergo the experience of defeat with the maximum number of your resources in tact.

What was created was an organization called after the war, the Odessa, for Organization of Veterans of the SS. It had its war-time roots in several departments of the Nazi bureaucracy but let's just call it Odessa. It doesn't mean the city, it means this secret underground organization that the Nazis created in order to help them endure as a coherent organization the forthcoming defeat of Hitler's military forces. They basically were able to establish bases of retreat all around the world. Lots in South America. Lots in South Africa. Some important places in Indonesia and for a while Egypt. And these places were very well provisioned and victualed. The enormous wealth that the Nazis had plundered was moved out of the country. Important industries were moved out of the country, licensed to operate in neutral countries and therefore beyond the reach of war reparations and an enormous amount of gold. 350 tons you hear, sometimes 500 tons, an enormous amount of gold was moved out of Germany.

And there was one other component of the Odessa, which is where Reinhard Gehlen comes back into the story, the master spy. The Nazis knew that all these plans for escape would come to nothing if they weren't able to neutralize the opposition because the opposition would have an enormous military advantage and could basically do to them whatever it wanted. So they had to some way manipulate the American point of view in the post-War period. Their own intelligence gave them insights into a struggle going on inside U.S. intelligence between the military and the civilian. The military didn't like that there was this thing that Roosevelt had created called the OSS. The military did not like the OSS for being under civilian control. They thought that intelligence belonged under military control. So there was always a struggle during the war between the military and the civilian sides of intelligence. And Gehlen had good enough intelligence pipelines into the United States to know this. He was able to exploit this.

At the end of the war he comes to the United States with an offer, very secret. The offer was, "hey, you guys, everybody knows that now that you have beaten the Germans, you and Russia together, you and the Russians are going to turn out to be each other's worst enemies. Everybody can see this coming. Now in this struggle which is about to begin between you and the Soviet Union, a great advantage is going to accrue to the side that has the better intelligence capabilities. Now everybody knows that the Russians have spies everywhere in the American government and here we'll give a few that you never thought of before," and Gehlen passes a few names around and he says, "what we have here is an intelligence capability that's ready to go to work. That is to say, this organization that we set up here in Germany. We have spies everywhere in East Europe. We have spies inside the Kremlin very close to the top of the Soviet government. All you have to do is let us continue to carry on the fight against Bolshevism and we will go and work for you".

So the Army said, "Oh, wow, great, terrific. Let's do this." And after a period of several months having secret negotiations at Fort Hunt, very near Washington, with Gehlen and six of his aides, a deal was drawn up and implemented in the spring of 1946 which I think of as the Secret Treaty of Fort Hunt. As a result of it, Gehlen went back to Europe, set up headquarters with several thousand expert technicians to go to work again as in the old days, still spying on the Russians, still spying in Eastern European countries, still up to all kinds of dirty tricks but now ostensibly in the name of the United States. In fact, secret even from the United States, in the name of the Odessa. Everything that the Gehlen organization did when it went to work for the United States was done for the purpose of guaranteeing the survival of the Odessa and had nothing at all to do with the security of the western world from the Communist menace. The Communist menace was real, it was always profoundly exaggerated by the Gehlen organization. I'm not saying that we can lay the blame for the Cold War at Gehlen's doorstep but I am saying that it's a very important part of understanding the political transition from being in a state of alliance with the Soviet Union in to one of open hostility.

It should not be thought, however, that Gehlen's entrance into the American intelligence system represented the entrance of evil in the American foreign policy system or represented the first appearance of real malice in the government. That wouldn't be true. In fact, this is interesting. I know

a guy who is writing a very important book, Richard Russell. The book is currently titled *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (Carroll & Graf, \$27.95). It's an unbelievably rich and highly documented and very novel contribution to this question of the Kennedy assassination. What he is showing us above all is that Oswald was part of an intelligence sphere where identities such as American, Russian, German, French, lose their meaning and everything blurs into a whirl of alliances and psuedo-alliances and loyalties and fake loyalties.

Q: You did write a book called *Yankee-Cowboy War* where you identified these two political forces, the Cowboys and the Yankees. How did the Clinton-Gore ticket fit into that model of politics?

A: Actually the name of the book is *The Yankee and Cowboy War*. You are partly more correct than I in dropping the "and". Apparently if you have an "and" they're on the same side, like in the French and Indian War. If they are against each other, like the North-South, you just use a hyphen. In the re-issue of this book, which should be coming later this year or early next year, it'll be called *The Yankee-Cowboy War*. What it wants to say is that American politics is in an important respect a struggle between regions. And all our modernization and our jet airplanes and our telecommunications have not changed this fact. There still is an underlying regional component to our struggles and to our sense of who we are as people. And I think that happened, well in the Civil War obviously there was a fight between the north and the south and the one wins and the other loses and the one that wins gets to run things for the most part if it wants to for a long time. Those are the yankees.

In our time it seems to me what's been happening is the center of dominance has been shifting further to the west and to the south. The rise of the Democratic Party under Clinton and Gore, I think what this shows is that the locus of political dominance is shifting away from the northeast and towards the southwest. This is in itself not good or bad. It's not even remarkable in a country that still is enduring growing pains such as ours is. The country hasn't filled up. The process of making America *America* all over is not finished. There's still an internal dynamic. And as that dynamic works its way out, power moves from the northeast to the southwest, I think. And I think that this is what the emergence of this kind of ticket in the Democratic Party represents. It means that New York is not going to be what New York used to be. It means that Los Angeles is going to be more and more important and the capitals of the states between are going to emerge. I think this could be very good. It could be very healthy. I suppose I'm a fool for wondering if it might not be possible that a ticket not based on the highly compromised political forces of the northeast, a ticket that is in some sense all scrubbed squeaky clean like the Clinton-Gore ticket, might not be able to harness some of the idealism that is latent in the American people and turn things around. I could hope a little bit for that.

Carl Oglesby has also authored *The JFK Assassination: The Facts and the Theories* (Signet, \$4.99).

Midwest Campaign Swing

big business
men
in ties & suits
tanned, rested
eager

street urchins
in sewers
soot in their eyes
lost, wounded
wondering

somewhere in between

Missed Opportunity
washed up on the shore
of the Big Muddy

pick it up
inspect it
throw it back

waiting for the Big One

--Philip Gounis

USTICA UNDER-REPORTED

by Jim Gregua
with Ken Thomas

Critics viewing the media as an unquestioning transmittal of government disinformation, not reporting and underreporting important events or otherwise distorting the news, should note with interest the role played by NASA spokesman James Oberg in the recent reporting of UFO events. Oberg debated Don Ecker on *Larry King Live* over the space shuttle video that apparently shows a UFO, making the doubtful claim that the maneuvering object was shuttle waste debris, with no apparent explanation for the beam that followed its right angle turn and high speed exit. Oberg appeared again on *Sightings* calling the famous crashed craft in Kecksberg, Pennsylvania a downed Soviet probe. Has Oberg been chosen by NASA as point man for the UFO cover-up?

The Houston space engineer is an expert on Soviet technology more than a public relations worker for NASA. Small wonder, then, that he was quoted by Reuters in support of the comments of Soviet air force captain and defector Alexander Zuyev, that blame for the 1983 crash of KAL 007 belonged to duplicitous bureaucrats of the Soviet Far East Command who failed to report radar outages in the Kamchatka peninsula. R. W. Johnson, in his 1986 book, *Shootdown* (Viking), and others have long argued that KAL 007 was a U. S. intelligence mission that sacrificed 269 lives, possibly for the sake of having the space shuttle *Challenger* monitor Soviet defenses. (Johnson presents his best challenge to Oberg's previous analysis of KAL 007 on pages 157-160 of his book.) L. Fletcher Prouty, in his new book, *JFK: The CIA, Vietnam and the Plot To Assassinate John F. Kennedy*, reminds those familiar with the tragedy that the CIA originally announced to the Korean Foreign Ministry--and the *New York Times* reported--that KAL 007 landed safely on Sakhalin Island, in part to ward off the investigative apparatus of the Japanese Air-Sea Rescue Fleet (Prouty, pages 342-343). This fact, along with the spy shuttle thesis, was notably absent from the Reuters report and Zuyev's subsequent *60 Minutes* interview of January 3, 1993.

Even more interesting was the *CBS Evening News* report on the Ustica air flight disaster

reported upon in *Steamshovel Press* #6. How is it that after twelve years of silence, with *Steamshovel* apparently being the only magazine in America to report upon it at all, this air battle and massacre now warrants five minutes of *CBS News*?

As reported last issue, an Alitalia Itavia DC9 was shot down near Ustica Island off the coast of Sicily and 81 people died. The incident was not tracked on radar as all radar in the area mysteriously had been turned off. American military authorities stonewalled every investigation. Several new developments have happened since SP6, including the discovery of a recording of three radar technicians made one hour after the disaster suggesting the involvement of the American aircraft carrier *Saratoga*, but the Pentagon denies the possibility, claiming that the *Saratoga* was not in the vicinity at the time. It also denies the presence of American war planes.

Rumors abound that the Air Italia flight got caught in a dogfight between American fighters and Libyan marauders. Wreckage from the incident was brought up last June thanks to advances in diving technology. In addition to parts of the civilian plane, parts of the wreckage were reassembled into the auxiliary fuel tank of a "Corsair" American fighter plane, the kind typically dispatched from aircraft carriers. This make of fuel tank only separates from the plane during combat action.

It was, perhaps, this last bit of hard evidence that occasioned the five minute blip at the beginning of *CBS News* in November. Nevertheless, the result of an intended inquiry from Italian minister of defense Salvo Ando to the U. S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, went unreported in the U.S. The silence follows other curious clues of cover-up: despite the uncovering of the fuel tank, some researchers of the Ustica crash, notably Professors Pent and Vadacchino of the Polytechnic Institute of Turin, have changed their assertion that the plane was attacked by a missile and now claim that a bomb exploded within it.

The duty roster of the *Saratoga* on the night of the crash contains every signature in the same handwriting. The U.S. military explains that it is standard procedure to do a rough copy. Someone then copies the whole thing at the end of 24 hours for the official copy. The latest development comes in the form of a wedding photograph taken on a hill overlooking the Ustica port near the time of the air disaster. In contradiction of the Pentagon's denials, the *Saratoga* can be seen in the photograph's background.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH		PLEASE CHECK
9 AM	GLEN STECKLING (USA): THE GEORGE ADAMSKI CASE	_____
11 AM	ED BURROWS (USA): UFO ORIGINS	_____
2 PM	G.C. SHELHORN (USA): EARLY CONTACTS	_____
4 PM	WENDELLE STEVENS (USA): UFO PHOTOS	_____
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29		
9 AM	PROF. A.J. GEURARD (BRAZIL): UFO'S IN S. AMERICA	_____
11 AM	ROBERT DEAN (USA): GOVT. COVERUPS	_____
2 PM	MICHAEL HESEMANN (GERMANY): UFO'S IN EUROPE	_____
4 PM	STANTON FRIEDMAN (USA): ROSWELL UPDATE	_____
MONDAY, NOVEMBER, 30TH		
9 AM	J. HAMILTON/R. BOYLAN & MORE: LATEST ABDUCTEE INFO.	_____
2 PM	CONTACTEE PANEL: PERSONAL TESTIMONIES	_____
4 PM	Q'S & A'S: PANEL MEMBERS QUESTION ABDUCTEES	_____
5 PM	Q'S & A'S: AUDIENCE QUESTIONS ABDUCTEES	_____
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1		
9 AM	DR. RICHARD BOYLAN (USA): UFO HOT SPOTS/S.WEST	_____
11 AM	J. HAMILTON/R. MONROE (USA): CONTACTING ET'S	_____
2 PM	DON WARE (USA): GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM	_____
3 PM	BOB BROWN (USA): GOVERNMENT ED. PROGRAM CONT.	_____
4 PM	MICHAEL HESEMANN (GERMANY): CROP CIRCLES	_____
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2		
9 AM	DIANA EMERSON (USA): HUMAN ET LINEAGE	_____
11 AM	KENN THOMAS (USA): WILHELM REICH	_____
2 PM	ERIK BECKFORD (USA): FACE ON MARS	_____
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3		
9 AM	DON WARE (USA): HUMAN & ET INTERACTION	_____
11 AM	SHAWN MORTON (USA): AREA 51-GROOM LAKE	_____
2 AM	STEVEN GREER (USA): CSETI & CE 5 EXPERIENCES	_____
TOTAL # OF TAPES ORDERED		_____

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CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

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2 Tape Sets \$12.95

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GRAND TOTAL _____

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Book Reviews...

Not so much a biography of gangster Momo Salvatore Giancana, alias "Sam", alias "Mooney" (as in looney), *Double Cross* (Warner Books, \$22.95) is the memoirs of his younger brother Chuck, as told to his son Sam; but since Chuck was, for most of his life, little more than a minor satellite orbiting the not so heavenly body of his elder sibling, the distinction is minor. After all, it is what Chuck has to reveal about his infamous brother and his dark activities that is the book's selling point. And if even half of the claims made in this book are true, US history books will have to be completely and ruthlessly rewritten, or at least those chapters dealing with the twentieth century. And it's not a pretty picture:

--Every president from Teddy Roosevelt on was "connected" with the "Outfit", as the Chicago-based, Capone-initiated mob called itself, Mafia being a term favored by New York and New Orleans only. Some presidents, like Richard Nixon, were totally owned by the Mob.

--The "Outfit" assassinated Huey Long, Chicago mayor Anton Cermak (in a template for the later JFK hit, he was shot while riding in an open car with Franklin Roosevelt in Miami; the killer was caught and revealed to be a lone nut, of course), Marilyn Monroe (to show what sort of cold-hearted bastard Giancana was, he fucked the drug-addled Marilyn in Lake Tahoe knowing full well that she would be dead within the week by his orders, and the request of the CIA...), and of course, both Kennedys. No mention is made of possible Mob involvement in the assassination of Martin Luther King, just a cryptic remark that the "Outfit" helped the FBI "with Commies and that shine, Martin Luther King, more than once" (p. 256). (One thing the "Outfit" didn't like was uppity "shines", as they called black people).

--Many Hollywood stars were Mob-backed and controlled; not just the infamous Sinatra-led Rat Pack, but otherwise "clean" stars like Cary Grant, Gary

Cooper, Jean Harlow, Jimmy Durante, George Raft, and (say it ain't so!) the Marx brothers. And, needless to say, anyone who ever played Vegas.

--The "Outfit" and the CIA are "two sides of the same coin". (p. 215) The Black Hand and the White Hand, no telling where the one ends and the other begins.

--Joseph P. Kennedy managed to keep his fortune after the Wall Street crash of 1929 because he had advance knowledge of it, along with John O. Rockefeller and William Durant of General Motors. "They made it happen. They figured out how they could get even richer. Shit, old man Kennedy made over a million bucks sellin' the market short before it fell. They manipulated the whole fuckin' thing." (p. 227)

--The Kennedys were killed because they welched on the deal their old man made with the "Outfit": provide the money and votes to secure JFK's election, and the Kennedy administration would let the "Outfit" flourish unhindered. Instead, for whatever reason, the Kennedys went after organized crime hammer and long. (Mooney speculated that it was to eliminate those who knew too much about the illicit origin of old man Kennedy's fortune and his mob ties.) This is the double cross of the title (although the book abounds with them. Giancana double-crossed a few people himself), leading to the book's obvious climax: Dallas, November 22, 1963. And both Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon were in it from the start. (p. 333)

If the idea that the Mafia or whatever the hell it is, has infiltrated every cranny of the American establishment, from big business to the most secret government agencies sounds too much like the worldview of Bruce Roberts in the *Gemstone File*, the version the Giancanas offer is close enough to it. Either they are familiar with that and other conspiracy theories and are merely playing to the newly-fashionable paranoia unleashed by Oliver Stone's recent film (as opposed to those of us who were paranoid long before it became trendy) in order to make money, or...they're telling the unvarnished truth and you've been living in a fool's paradise all this time.

This is the sort of mind-warping theory that even many radicals don't care to contemplate. After all, didn't the government convict John Gotti recently? Aren't the feds always going after some alleged "godfather"? Haven't they shut down entire crime families? Or have they merely eliminated troublesome rivals for the real bosses?

Certainly the government could destroy the Mob once and for all if it really wanted to, right? If for no other reason than the Mob's temerity in muscling into the state's monopoly on coercion, corruption, and terrorism.

But as this book reminds us, the Kennedy brothers were the first and so far only ones to attempt to root out the Mob, whatever their motives. And it cost both of them their lives. Prior to them, even J. Edgar Hoover claimed that there was no such thing as organized crime; of course, that's because he was in the Mob's pocket, too.

(How the "Outfit" kept Hoover in their debt deserves extensive quotation: "Frank Costello would hear from Frank Erickson, the country's biggest and most powerful bookie, about an upcoming fix on a race. Next, Costello would tell columnist Walter Winchell, and Winchell, in turn, would call Hoover. Hoover would hop into his car under the pretext he was working on a case and head for the track.

"He'd place a two-dollar bet at the window while one of his flunkies put the real money on the sure thing at the hundred-dollar window," Mooney [Giancana] said. He told Chuck that Costello never let the FBI director down; Hoover won every time." [p. 256]).

But Hoover got caught with his pants down by the raid on the Appalachian conference in upstate New York in November, 1957, when state troopers stumbled upon the biggest collection of mobsters and their cronies ever assembled in one place, and busted over fifty of them. (Many escaped, including Giancana, who ruined his \$1200 suit running through the woods, where the life-long city boy learned the hard way the risks of running on wet, autumn leaves). Being upstaged by mere state cops and held up to public ridicule for his inability to any longer deny what everyone on the street knew, Hoover was stung into a semblance of action by developing the Top

Hoodlum Program. The THP's greatest coup was its unearthing of the *real* name of the Italian-dominated national crime syndicate, not the Mafia, but La Cosa Nostra--"Our Thing"--a term nobody previously had heard of, including the mobsters who were supposed to be in it.

The major problem I see with this book is that it will enable those inclined to dismiss such stories to do so too easily. All the evidence is anecdotal (but then who expects the Mob to have kept records?), and many readers might find it hard to believe that Chuck Giancana could remember entire conversations he had with Sam over a sixty-some year period. Others may be confused by the novelistic manner in which the book is written with Chuck the narrator always referred to in the third person, and much dramatization (no doubt this was written with one eye on a movie contract). The authors defend this by stating that "too many important political revelations have gone unnoticed by the US reader due to tedious journalistic research, which results, unfortunately, in tedious reading." It's a point well taken, but I can easily see the unwary or naive reader mistaking the book for a work of fiction because of their insistence "to engage the reader--to tell a good story--while maintaining historical accuracy."

But perhaps I quibble, the book has the ring of truth to it, despite some really incredible claims (in reference to Carlos Marcello's Alzheimer's disease, "Chuck heard rumors among the Outfit guys that such diseases were the product of modern CIA chemistry; it was said, but never proven, that Marcello's was as well." [p.354] Alzheimer's, AIDS, what next?!). There is much intersecting of information provided by other books dealing with the JFK assassination, and much that purports to be new (some of the Dealey Plaza riflemen are named. One was Charles Harrelson, now rotting in a Texas prison for killing a federal judge under Mob contract. The father of actor Woody Harrelson of *Cheers* TV show fame, he has claimed to have been an assassin, one of the three mystery tramps photographed while being escorted by police and never heard of again. Subsequently, Harrelson has recanted this, claiming that he was temporarily insane when he said it.)

Whatever the veracity of the incidentals in this book, it is a certainty that it won't get the public airing it deserves. In other parts of the world, like Europe, the release of a book like this would send shock waves through the media, even topple governments. Here in the land of the free press, it will be suppressed through deliberate ignorance, or a concerted campaign to discredit it will ensue, as with Stone's film. When belief in the single bullet theory seems an employment requirement for big-time journalists (sort of like an ideological urine test), and even supposed opposition commentators rally to the defense of the Warren Commission, you won't see Ted Koppel championing the authors of *Double Cross* on *Nightline* anytime soon.

--G. J. Krupey

Robert Anton Wilson's Newsletter...

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(Continued from page 24) As for *Stasi Slut* (Masquerade, 3.95), you guys should know that I was edited line by line. They dutifully put verbs in my verbless phrases; turned dashes into "so"; turned carefully planned accumulation of past participles into the continuous present; took the quotes off the internal monologue in many places and used italics in others; edit by several raunchy hands. Key elements of the plot were altered. They censored my jokes about Germans and porn for marketing reasons. They mauled the first 133 pages the most (rewriting sex scenes, etc.) I wrote the rest of the book in two weeks while moving and dating a very ready Russian princess in order to make the word count. They even edited delicate tautologies like: "Piss was the blood of life that she let place, once a month." Shit, I was just trying to give Erica Jong the guy she wanted, the one who would go down on her when she was having her period. Anyway... Bob, the Traven book I wanted to cite was Guthke's biography ('91 for the translation, '87 for the German edition). There are many takes on Bakhtin now. I say we marginals should appropriate him as the Bakunin for our times - he was one of us. Wanted to give you guys the two-minute Trocchi, but we never got around to it (at least not while I was lucid). *Flatland* has his new reader out of Scotland (Jim has one copy of his flawed, but interesting bio - a sample copy). All this garbage flying around the net, when what's of substance - books - takes half a year to order and at four times the local rate. The reader has Trocchi's *sigma* outline, which I think should be considered again.

The best part of Atlanta happened a week later -- met Mary2 au contraire by chance in the subway in DC. Seems she was on stage during Stang while I was bending Adam's ear. One of my skin shots of this sexy witch with the Capitol as backdrop will make the cover of *INAUGURAL BALL* (forthcoming). Sexual outlaws of the world: unite!

--Len Bracken

The unmodified text of *Stasi Slut*, a manuscript entitled *The East Is Black*, is available for \$10 from Bracken, 5723 N. 10th Road, Apartment #6, Arlington, VA 22205.



"The trails are fresh. The clues are current. The case is open." So asserts Dick Russell in *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (Carroll & Graf, \$27.95). Too bad the book existed only as a promotional post card at the Assassination Symposium on Kennedy in Dallas last October. Although the symposium did include an informative panel on Oswald, it would have only been enhanced if attendees had access to his remarkable addition to literature on the assassination. It builds on the working knowledge of Oswald previously distilled best in Philip H. Melanson's still available *Spy Saga* (Praeger, \$21.95) through a minute examination of the author's correspondence and interviews with Richard Case Nagell, a spook with multi-layered allegiances who shot up an El Paso bank in September 1963 to prevent himself from killing Oswald before Oswald killed JFK. Not that Nagell wanted Kennedy dead necessarily—Russell seems to make clear that despite treachery by the intelligence world he served (admittedly only one level being U.S.), Nagell tried to do the right thing and warn the FBI of the assassination plot, warnings deliberately ignored. Despite the many revelations Russell pumped from Nagell, Nagell's name appears at the top of the list of potential "fresh trails" people to be deposed. Indeed, Nagell is still out there balancing his government pension, along with the further manipulation it represents, and the possibility renewed by the publication of this book that the government might want to end that pension early) against finally completing his life long attempt to get the right thing done and tell all he knows.

Among the possessions Nagell has squirreled away in a safety deposit box somewhere on foreign soil: a tape recording of Oswald's voice with Nagell and someone called only "Angel", discussing an assassination plot in August 1963. Russell also reports on a 45 RPM of Oswald on the phone line of the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions held by Winston Scott, CIA Mexico City station chief. The tape apparently was retrieved after Scott's death by James Jesus Angleton, who no doubt lies in the grave clutching it with one hand while the other grips tightly onto Mary Pinchot Meyer's diary.

Another documentary artifact revealed in *The Man Who Knew Much*: an uncut copy of the Zapruder film possibly still extant, owned by the H. L. Hunt family. Robert Groden, renown for his enlargement and rotoscoping of the existing print has long noted ten missing frames, and at the ASK conference David Lifton suggested in his Z-film workshop that many of the existing frames have been tampered with. At the ASK symposium also

Groden promised good copies of the available film would be at videostores by the next conference, scheduled to begin on the thirtieth anniversary this November, just as these suspicions and the existence of this pristine copy are beginning to become known.

Links between the government brainwashing program MKULTRA and Oswald and the assassination are brought out here in great detail and Russell also reports of another FBI memo from 11/22/63 showing George H. W. Bush--no mistaking it for the "second" Bush claimed by the White House as recipient of a previous memo--trying to cast suspicion on a political rival. At the very least this puts the lie to the former president's supposed faulty memory about that date. For this and too many additional reasons in *The Man Who Knew Too Much* to list, and considering that in the current atmosphere of interest and anniversary, attendees will no doubt be quite anxious to hear an update on Dick Russell's research when he speaks at the Second Annual Midwest Symposium on Assassination Politics in Chicago, April 1-4.

Two new books, both entitled *The Gemstone File*, explore the Aristotic Oswalds-kidnapped-Howard Hughes and took over the world conspiratorial view, in which the Kennedy assassination is one detail, proffered first by the late researcher Bruce Roberts. Roberts' original handwritten letters, numbering well over a thousand, detail the hidden machinations of the international mafia (linked to JFK's death), the takeover of the national security state via the kidnapping of Hughes and assumption of his defense contracts, the development of the Golden Triangle drug trade and its cover-up, the Vietnam War. Stephanie Caruana, a writer for *Playgirl* who came into contact with the file through Mae Brussel, distilled the enormous amount of data into a "sketchy" chronology. She will be the subject of a *Steamshovel Press* interview next issue.

The first of the books to build on this data is edited by Jim Keith, *The Gemstone File* (IllumiNet, 14.95) and includes commentary by G. J. Krupay, Len Bracken, Robert Anton Wilson, Jonathan Vankin, X. Sharks Despot and Kerry Thornley, who has since modified his view that the Gemstone File is a hoax. The book not only presents the Gemstone material in a usable format, as opposed to the fragmented and xeroxed bootleg versions that have circulated among researchers for years, its commentary comes from writers familiar to *Steamshovel* readers. Each has taken the material in surprising and revelatory directions.

Richard Alan's *The Gemstone File* (Crown Publishing Company, POB 16261, Columbus, Ohio 43216, \$29.95) is a contrast to the Keith-edited volume. It seems to have developed in a vacuum a bit—it does not mention Stephanie Caruana, for instance. Apparently the author collected his archive based only on tracing the files through the public record, without collaboration or advice from the body of researchers also working on them. It also comes in a much larger format, much of which reproduces newspaper articles directly from the microfilm—advertising and all so cultural history can be examined as conspiratorial history is revealed. The primary material, Bruce Roberts' original correspondence, is still a cause for excitement among researchers as some of the original letters continue to surface, but these two volumes provide separate kinds of secondary support: the commentary of engaged researchers; and the extant public record from newspapers and magazines.

The Man On The Grassy Knoll by John R. Craig and Phillip A. Rogers (Avon, \$4.50) argues that the grassy knoll shooters included Chauncey Holt, Charles Harrelson and the psychopath Charles Rogers, who later killed and dismembered his parents when they discovered his involvement with JFK's death. The temptation is to put this in the same category as the Bonar Menninger/Howard Donahue *Mortal Error* book: possible, but not likely.

JFK: The CIA, Vietnam and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy by L. Fletcher Prouty (Birch Lane Press, \$22), the former CIA-Pentagon liaison who has been taken to task over his association with Holocaust revisionists, presents Prouty's support for the thesis that Kennedy was killed because of changes he planned in the Vietnam policy. His relationship with the revisionists is no doubt the same as the one he had with the Scientologists, who also published his work when no one else would. Instead of Adolf Hitler, however, the philosopher that informs this book, remarkably, is R. Buckminster Fuller, who Prouty refers to constantly.

Finally, more tame spy fiction comes from the word-processor of E. Howard Hunt. His new *Chinese Red* (St. Martin's Press, \$21.95) is curiously dull considering the wealth of skullduggery that characterizes his reality tunnel. One interesting note: the opening murder takes place in Charlottesville, Virginia—not too far from where Danny Casolaro, who was in communication with Hunt, met his demise. It's too much of a stretch to even qualify as a coincidence and otherwise the intrigue the intrigue storied in *Chinese Red* is unusually distanced from that in the real world.

The most interesting offering from the Beat lexicon is *Pomes All Sizes* by Jack Kerouac (City Lights, \$8.95), a previously unpublished manuscript, the first of four recently liberated from the legal entanglements of the Great Beat's estate, readied for publication prior to Kerouac's death in 1969. The new William Burroughs book, *The Cat Inside* (Viking, \$12.50) is both slim and a bit domestic (Burroughs actually likes the animals) for readers anxious for another three volume epic of Burroughsian visionary madness, or at least the rumored Christ-virus novel. Nevertheless, it did inspire one reviewer to remark "The fact that Burroughs lives with cats proves just how tolerant cats can be." And while the much anticipated Rhino anthology of Allen Ginsberg is still in the works, a new biography, *Dharma Lion* (St. Martin's, \$32.50) by Michael Schumacher offers a wealth of detail missing even from Barry Miles excellent 1989 Ginsberg bio. Schumacher sticks more closely to the biographical material surrounding the actual writing of the poems.

Another biography of a counter-culture figure, Marty Jezer's *Abbie Hoffman, American Rebel* (Rutgers University Press, \$22.95) gives Hoffman a kind of Rolling Stone treatment with some obligatory criticism about his guerilla theatre style, but no mention of the conspiracy theories surrounding his death.

Adam Parfrey's Feral House has published an anthology of material on Charles Manson, the two notorious editions of *Apocalypse Culture*, and a biography of Satanist Anton LaVey (containing, incidentally, a curious photo of ufologist Jacques Vallee together with the master Satanist, unexplained as well in Vallee's recent autobiographical *Forbidden Science*), but it will no doubt receive more infamy for *Cad, A Handbook For Heels* (Feral House, \$14.95). *Cad* reproduces cheesecake and nudy photos from "men's magazines" of the late fifties. As innocuous as *Mad Magazine*, it nevertheless includes enough female flesh to no doubt offend critics, moreso than prompt the obvious response of laughter.

Wilhelm Reich's name has re-appeared in two new weird science books. Preston Nichols' *The Montauk Project* (Sky Books, Box 769, Westbury, NY 11590, \$15.95) written with Peter Moon, details the experiences of the author's involvement with a secret follow-up to the Philadelphia Experiment, which reportedly made the U.S.S. Eldridge move through time. The follow-up culminated at the Montauk Air Force Base on August 12, 1983 when according to authors, the Eldridge re-appeared. A reporter for Newsday documented an unpredicted electrical storm near the date. The book includes a slim appendix on



Reich, more of a nod than an explanation of his work figuring into these experiments. Co-author Peter Moon explained to *Steamshovel* that "the scenario seems to be going deeper. We are planning a follow-up." *Steamshovel* editors hope the follow-up includes more on Reich.

Synchronistically, Leading Edge Research (POB 481-MU58, Yelm, Washington 98597) makes mention of "Reichian programming" in its examinations of "new electronic networks, use of the cellular telephone system, mind control projects and manipulations of the earth grid vortices," entitled *Matrix II* and *Matrix III* by Valdamar Valerian (\$55 @). The one volume available to *Steamshovel*, *Matrix II*, contained brief mention about Reich's cloudbusting work and death in prison and much information on things conspiratorial and ufological, including primary documents on the Area 51 land grab and interviews with the likes of John Lear. In its discussion of "Reichian programming", a channel between the conscious and subconscious opened by a pre-orgastic state, *Matrix II* notes that this research was connected to Montauk but "It has not been determined whether the technology was a parallel development relative to Wilhelm Reich or whether the U.S. had acquired additional similar technology through alien contact after it became aware of Reich's work." The aliens seem the more likely culprit. Reich's life's work intended to heal mental suffering, not exacerbate it. It would be surprising to learn that Reich was involved in brainwashing. Before he further advances the notion that Reich was a mad scientist, it would be much appreciated if Valerian revealed the sources of this informa-

tion. In any event, *Matrix II* is an admirable attempt at throwing a massive amount of data at the problems of alien abduction and manipulation. If the victims of such phenomena might be helped by orgone therapy, it would be too bad if this kind of information would cause them to avoid it.

Under the category of books-received-but-no-time-or-space-to review: *Marijuana and the Bible*, an educational look at the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church view of the topic (available from POB 1161, Minneola, FL 34755-1161); and two more small entries from Odonian Press: *What Uncle Sam Really Wants* by Noam Chomsky and *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire* by Gore Vidal.

Larry Flynt's Nightmare

(The Nocturnal Pitfalls of Publishing A Porno Magazine Involved in Investigating Political Assassinations)

healthy pink vulvas
turned green
distorted & twisted
into the form of dollar signs
& stretched....
until they Snap!
UGH!
hit
right in the solar plexus
"Where'd that shot come from?"
the grassy knoll?
E. Howard Hunt?
the book depository?
H. L. Hunt?
Did it come at all?
Maybe Paul Krassner invented the
whole scenario

Can he come again?
Paralyzed
Mystified
Larry Flynt flat on his back
Althea bring the Acu-jack!
What an awful life!
Not even the President of the United
States could
persuade him to really be born again

--Philip Gounis

Caries, Cabals and Correspondence

Letters from Readers

Dear Steve or Brian or Steamshovel Press,

Is it related to the drug BZ, post battle fatigue or programming by the military industrial brain control? Schoolyarder sexual crimes activity are lack of supernietzmen establishment shootout explanations. What is the foundation for controversial programming of Orargantium? First time six pointed evolving termesphere, see a kinetic solid cornersphere or coresphere. Just say know is Little Leaguerman death by the X-men from dharmic outer-space shatling towards an RD3 bright star.

Gratefully yours,

Objikaang

Tigard, Oregon

Keep Up The Good Recursives

5050 yaxche,

Thanx.

In Henry Hurt's *Reasonable Doubt* he tells the story of Oswald's visit to Edward Gillin who, in the summer of 1963, was an assistant DA in New Orleans. Lee came to Gillin and asked him about an "exotic mind-altering drug". Hurt does not say that it was LSD. Hurt also says that Lee had checked out Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* from the New Orleans Public Library. Gillin says Lee constantly referred to the book in his conversation. Hurt also mentions the evidence that the CIA was likely experimenting with LSD at Atsugi when Lee was there. But why would he wait four years to express interest in it? Why was there absolutely no mention of it in his diaries? Why was the FBI report on the Gillin encounter buried by the Warren Commission? They could have used it to further slander Oswald's character.

Note that Mary Pinchot Meyer first believed she was in danger because of her experiments with acid. But, just a week before she was murdered she told a friend of then Treasury official Marshall Diggs that she "...positively knew that [CIA]-affiliated Cuban exiles and the Mafia were responsible for the killing of John Kennedy". Diggs told the story to Robert Morrow, the CIA contract agent who claims he purchased the Czech sniper rifles used in the assassination, who, in turn, told Mario Kohly, leader of the

Cuban exile movement in the U.S. Kohly told Morrow "the matter would be taken care of".

Sure enough, a week later Mary Meyer was dead, shot expertly in the head and heart at a slightly downward angle supposedly by an unemployed black man who was five inches shorter than she and who had never been known to handle a gun. Since Mary was not carrying her purse--she never did on these regular walks--robbery was not considered as a motive. Rape was. In broad daylight. Along a path used regularly by many people. After the trial, people looking into the murder were repeatedly threatened with death, including Tim Leary and his lawyer.

Dave Dix

Minneapolis, Minnesota

A C-Span broadcast of November 11 had Admiral Crowe fronting for a "Committee to Reform Government", which included dignitaries from Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, etc. This is the same Admiral Crowe who so publicly gave his endorsement to Bill Clinton for President during the recent campaign. There was also a slate of other military bosses who endorsed Bill. Since the topics of discussion were international policy and security and particularly the placement of U. S. troops under U. N. command, which Admiral Crowe felt would be "no problem", I listened with great interest. Two phrases that were used at the conference were "unification of foreign and domestic policy" and "unification of economic and national security policy". These phrases should be seen as "control" mechanisms. Is anyone asking the American people to what extent they'd like to be controlled? The good admiral also used the phrase "New World Order" at least five times, and each of these to promote same.

Dale Thorn

Ventura, CA

As far as "conspiracy theories" go, I'm of the firm conviction that specific individuals ("insiders") within the organized adult industry are

"infiltrating" the alternative grassroots underground sex 'zines as editors, consultants, etc. in order to not only keep their finger on the pulse of trends but to manipulate the most vulnerable publishers, editors and writers into presenting a self-serving, self-protective spin control that does not challenge, confront or otherwise threaten the organized adult industry's bottom line or ideological status quo. After all, what could be more threatening than the realization by hundreds of

millions of consumers worldwide that they're being spoonfed a commercially-created and slick product; certainly not the entire range and diversity of human erotosexual expression in all its manifestations. What's more, Real Eroto-Sexuality by and for Real People is far more authentic and genuine. We all can pretty much relate to it. And, we can all create it!

*Brenda Loew Tatelbaum
Boston, MA*

Zen Hills by Steve Thomas

In those loaves of leaf mould and stone is the memory.

Full of yeats and fermented grape juice, I think of Voyager on the way to Mars and the marsh in southern Mesopotamia where the idea of Eden began.

Outside, the late summer, early autumn air blows soft and bird wrought through my wine smelling car, ruffling pages of the idle book of Irish poetry open beside me, curving around facial features inherited from a shipwrecked viking and the twelve year old daughter of a drunken Celt as I lay my head back on the vinyl cushion closing my eyes thinking of the Japanese monk who, after decades of cold predawns and frugal rice, wandered down to the stream one day when he was hungry and attained satori when he bit into a living crayfish.

Inside, old people bright as birds in yellow and purple chirp over plastic and paper and potmetal things. Old people wrinkled as monkeys reach out trembling hands to touch red things with springs and latches and pink things perfumed by distant chemists. Shuffling, they join the lines of consumerlings, looking at the cashiers with sad eyes, pushing towards them the useless things they buy to prove they are alive while the almost motionless clay beneath the concrete hurtles a microsecond more than nothingness closer to eternity.

Outside, two goldfinches chase each other, fluttering from perch to perch among the swaying thistles while barn swallows or the spirits of barn swallows swift and boomerang inches above the contours of the planet showing midnight blue backs and pumpkin breasts and shimmering blue again in a single second in their incredibly agile pursuit of invisible insects.

Inside, chilled by the steady, sterile wind, young mothers dream magazines and paperback virgins raped in pastel, lugging on their hips the species promise in the form of slurpy stained fledglings who squeal reaching for candy and shriek when they're smacked. Elsewhere in silent isles blubbery ten year olds steal ninja stars and ray guns to cradle against the demons that lonely their airless rooms.

Outside, a warm breeze stirs, tumbling turquoise hamburger wrappers across shimmering asphalt, sending slow waves through seed heavy grass on the September hillsides.

Across the parking lot, in the end of the millennium market beyond the plate glass, members of this moment's tribe trade pictures of dead men for trinkets and cheap treasures, grabbing and babbling oblivious to the intelligent dirt below the concrete beneath the synthetic soles of the ill fitting shoes on their unwashed feet.

In the scruffy slopes beyond the chain link, beneath the litter and fragrant weeds, is the memory of a sandbox of centuries in which creatures and cultures appeared and disappeared like shadows in a superfast sun.

In those hills behind the discount store is a history of time, the million year movements of earth's slow mind forming the embryo of everything living in the shining blackness around a little star.

Holocaust Revisionism: "Myth" or Free Inquiry?

by Bradley R. Smith

Oliver Stone is up front about the falsehoods in his movie *JFK*. He admits he takes "artistic license" with the truth in order to tell his story. In his film, characters speak words that were not spoken by their real life models. Scenes are invented for the film that did not happen historically. A conspiracy theory is developed that he can not document.

As Stone would like to have it, as he has stated, he has created his own "myth" to stand against the orthodox myth formulated and institutionalized by the State. It sounds fair. What he has done in fact is to choose to address an historical issue with the most corrupt cinematic form exploited in Hollywood, the "docudrama."

The problems with the so-called docudrama have been discussed widely. The form does not require that anything whatever be documented. It does not require that truth be told or falsehoods denied. In short, the docudrama as a form is corrupt from beginning to end. Because of its easily accessed dramatic power, inherent in it being rooted in a real event that retains its own power to affect us deeply, it creates unnecessary intellectual and false spiritual burdens for those who take it seriously.

Oliver Stone appears to hope that myth can be shown to be politically committed to the Left of the 1960s. Not likely. Myth is a little grander than that. Better to call a Hollywood docudrama what it is, a chance for the least principled but most energetic people in that place of to make unconscionable charges, which they can not demonstrate to be true, against any person or any people they want. *JFK* then is a thirty-five million dollar movie structured on the sensibilities of the eighty cent super market tabloid.

At the same time, while there are no documents that prove that the German state wanted to murder the Jews of Europe, and while it appears that it never occurred to the Germans to draw up plans or a budget for this little project, and while there appear to be no documents proving "gas chambers" and no documented proof of one man or woman having been "gassed" at any camp under German control, there is nevertheless a frenzy of holocaustamania whooshing like a storm through the front offices and back alleys of Hollywood calling for one Holocaust trash-epic docudrama after another.

All these Holocaust movies, whatever their form, are committed to promoting the myth of unique German monstrosity. That's how Hollywood "creates" myth. In other contexts it's been called the technique of the "Big Lie." This technique is made to order for an industry with unequalled access to mass audiences, based on expensive technology and mass distribution available only to a few, and with much of the industry in the hands of a minority that has convinced itself that a manufactured myth rooted in lies and falsehoods serves its own good.

Since the Holocaust story is so fantastic that no healthy man or woman would believe it if it were open to routine examination every other historical event in the history of the West is open to, it's necessary for the entertainment industry, acting as an agency of the Holocaust Lobby, to work like beavers to suppress every honest critique of the burgeoning Holocaust myth.

No two pursuits could be more opposite than the effort to create myth on the one hand, and the other to pursue the ideal of free inquiry. Inwardly, myth "makers" have an ill-defined but unrelenting need for others to believe what they themselves want to believe, which may or may not benefit the others but which always appears to the myth maker to benefit himself as he wrestles with the pressures of his subjective life.

Free inquiry, however, doesn't make any promises to the myth makers or to anyone else either, and that's why Holocaust myth makers despise and fear it so. Free inquiry doesn't promise to reveal what truth is, but it does promise to reveal what it discovers is false and it is this promise that is such a terrible nuisance to the myth maker. The myth maker wants truth now and expects it to agree with what, inwardly, he pines for most desperately. He sees the projection of his own psychological set as a model that others would do well to guide their lives by.

Myth accumulates, it isn't manufactured by business men. Myth gathers unto itself what it wants century by century, paying little attention to the neurosis of individuals who don't like Arabs or Germans and use melodrama to punish people they imagine to be their enemies. Myth is always cooking, always cooking, no matter what any one of us as an individual does or does not do. In that way too it's very different from free inquiry.

Free inquiry has to be cranked up by an individual who is willing to pursue it, with no guarantee where it might finally lead. Manufacture of a myth promises comfort and success to the one who makes it up, particularly if others can be persuaded to believe it. What a comfort. Free inquiry promises that new understanding, which could wreck havoc in the life of the one who experiences it. The promise that new understanding makes is that in the moment you will become more vulnerable and less secure. Who needs it?

War crime trials where special laws were invented to try Germans for crimes that only Germans could be charged with were themselves filmed as docudramas, that is, without regard to truth. Here the State took over a vulgar cinematic form and used it to manufacture and institutionalize its own myth of World War II. The ideal of free inquiry, which is at the heart of any judicial process, was bitterly suppressed by the court representing the victorious Allied military machines—the International Military Tribunal.

The products of the Nuremberg and other war crimes docudramas, film and text alike, were then made available to those who felt they could best profit from them. Truth was not an issue with the distributors of these materials, and has not become one since. The manufacture of a pseudo-myth was good enough for them, and that's what they got. Now, free inquiry, in the form of Holocaust revisionism, is revealing for all to see the fraud and falsehood that so much of the Hollywood and Hollywood-like Holocaust myth consists of.

A conspiracy theory can maintain its vitality even if free inquiry demonstrates that there isn't much to it, because such theory is rooted in the intellect of a few. Myth evolves from the experience of an entire culture. The irony in this instance is that the charge of conspiracy against Republicans and Democrats around the JFK murder holds a lot more water than does the charge of "gas-chamber genocide" still being made against the National Socialist German Workers Party.

In the 1960s it looks like a Democratic/Republican cabal used the Warren court to suppress evidence that contradicts much of the State's explanation for the murder of John Kennedy. In the 1940s it looks like the Democratic/Republican cabal cooperated with their friend Joseph Stalin in using the Nuremberg court to suppress evidence that would disprove the gas-chamber genocide charges. There's a kind of comfort to be gotten from such consistency of behavior, or don't you think so?

We don't need Hollywood docudrama myths on the cheap to sort these affairs out for us. We need a celebration in action of the rights to free inquiry and open debate. That's what we promised ourselves at the very beginning.

Bradley R. Smith authored *Confessions of A Holocaust Revisionist Part One*, published by Popular Reality, PO 2942, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

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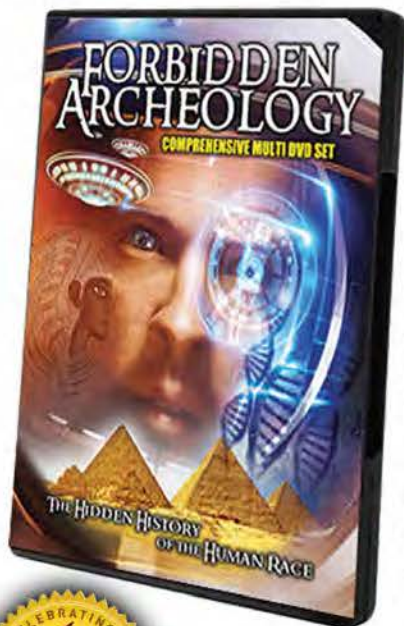
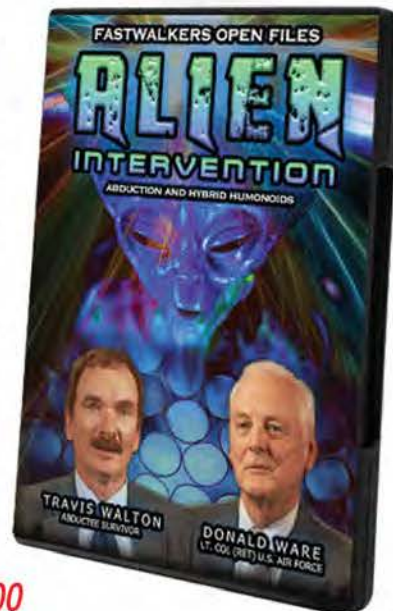
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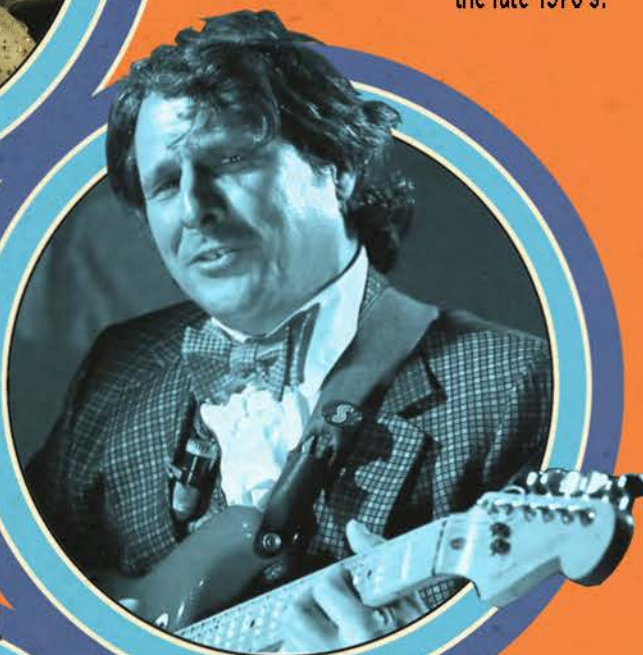


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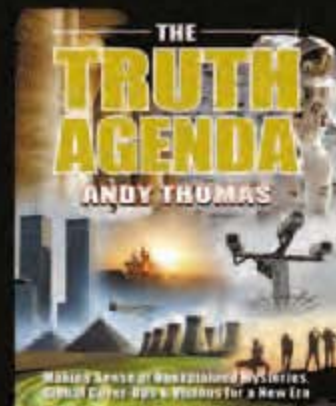


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